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ATLANTIS ATTACKS
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DAREDEVIL
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DAREDEVIL
IT'S NOT A GOOD DAY TO BE D.D.! IF A FIGHTING-MAD SPIDER-MAN DOESN'T GET HIM...
THE WORLD CONQUERING TYRANNUS AND HIS SERPENT LEGIONS WILL!!
MISSION
LUDWELL
GUEST-STARRING: THE ONE AND ONLY DR. STRANGE!
FRENZ • SINNOTT

ATLANTIS ATTACKS

chapter seven

DAREDEVIL

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The Story so far... As the attack by the Atlanteans and rebel Lemurians against the surface world continues, the Deviant High Priest, *Ghaur*, and Lemurian rebel leader, *Llyra*, have freed *Tyrannus* to begin the next step in their scheme. As Dr. Tyrone, Tyrannus rescues the fanatical terrorist *Viper* from imprisonment in order to continue the plan to turn all of New York's drug addicts into Serpent-people. After turning Spider-Man into his personal servant, Tyrannus decides to leave Ghaur and Llyra and carry out their plan himself...

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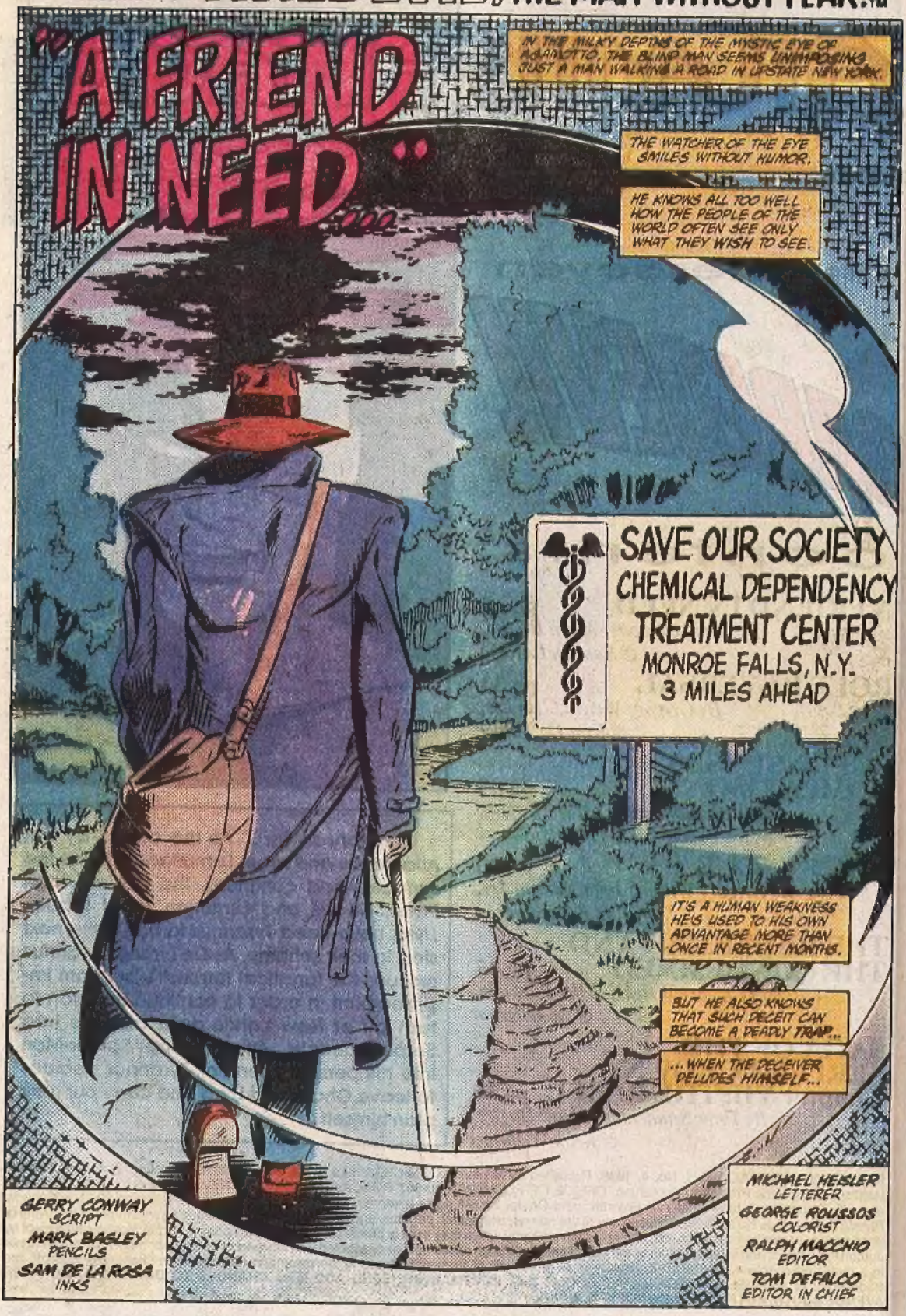
"A FRIEND IN NEED..."



GERRY CONWAY
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MARK BAGLEY
PENCILS
SAM DE LA ROSA
INKS

MICHAEL HEISLER
LETTERER
GEORGE ROUSSOS
COLORIST
RALPH MACCHIO
EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

BUT NO, THINKS THE WATCHER OF THE EYE, THIS MAN IS NO SELF-DECEIVER.
IF ANYTHING, THIS BLIND MAN KNOWS HIMSELF TOO WELL...
...AND THAT KNOWLEDGE, THINKS THE WATCHER, AS THE IMAGE IN THE RISING SUN, MAY HAVE DESTROYED HIM.
--DON'T LIKE IT, THE WAY THOSE SAVE OUR SOCIETY FOLKS TOOK OVER THE OLD CANAL WAREHOUSE, AND TURNED IT INTO A DRUGGIE CLINIC.
WHAT KINDA FREAKS THEY GONNA TREAT UP THERE?
CAFE & STORE
OPEN
BUMS AND CROOKS, THE LOT.
WELL NOW, HORACE, MAYBE AND MAYBE NOT.
I HEAR THAT DR. TYRONE WHO RUNS THE PLACE IS A RIGHT DECENT FELLA.
GIVE 'EM A CHANCE, THAT'S WHAT I SAY...
CLOSED
"EVERYBODY DESERVES A SECOND CHANCE."
IT'S A CULT, I TELL YA. THEY GOT MY PAL WALLY BRAINWASHED.
UH-HUH.
YOU THINK I'M KIDDIN'?
LISTEN. MONTH AGO, WALLY LEAVES HIS WIFE'N KID, LEAVES HIS JOB, LEAVES ME, LEAVES EVERYTHIN'--JUST DISAPPEARS.
TAKES ME WEEKS, BUT I TRACK HIM TO THAT SO-CALLED CLINIC OUT IN THE WOODS.
YESTERDAY I TRY TA GET IN, BUT THEY THROW ME OUT--SAY WALLY DON'T WANNA SEE ME.
ME, LEO--HIS BEST PAL FOR TWENTY YEARS! YOU BELIEVE THAT?
I HEAR THAT CENTER IS SOME KINDA DRUG CLINIC.
NO WAY!
YOUR FRIEND, IS HE AN ADDICT?
THEY GOT HIM BRAINWASHED!
I'M GOIN' BACK THERE, AND THIS TIME I AIN'T LEAVIN' WITHOUT MY PAL!

THE BLIND MAN LISTENS WITH HALF-ATTENTION AND TOTAL DISINTEREST.
AN ACCIDENT LONG AGO GIFTED HIM WITH SENSES SO ACUTE--
THUMP THUMP THUMP
--HE CAN HEAR A HEARTBEAT.
BDIP
BDIP
BDIP
OR HEARTBEATS.
STRANGE, DISTORTED, RAPID AND THREATENING:
OUTSIDE, IN THE REAR OF THE STORE, THE MAN NAMED LEO IS NOT ALONE.
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, MR. BAXTER?
HUH?
YOU WERE TOLD TO GO AWAY.
A SIMPLE REQUEST.
WHY COULDN'T YOU BE REASONABLE?
STUFF REASONABLE! YOU CREEPS ARE HOLDIN' MY BEST PAL PRISONER!
FIRST TURN 'M OVER, THEN WE TALK REASONABLE!
:SIGH!:
I'M AFRAID THE SITUATION IS BEYOND TALK, MR. BAXTER-- REASONABLE OR OTHERWISE.
SAVE OUR SOCIETY IS IN A DELICATE TRANSITION STAGE. WE CANNOT TOLERATE OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE.
HSSSSS
UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO DIE.
HEY--

DON'T.
WHO?
DAREDEVIL?
THE DOCTOR WAS RIGHT. LET ONE OUTSIDER INTERFERE, AND OTHERS SOON FOLLOW.
KILL HIM TOO.
THE BLIND MAN DIDN'T SEEK THIS INVOLVEMENT.
HISSSSS
HIS ACTIONS ARE INSPIRED LESS BY DESIGN THAN BY INSTINCT.
HIS LIFE A SHAMBLES, HIS DREAMS DESTROYED, ALL HE LONGS FOR IS BLESSED, APATHETIC SOLITUDE.
BUT LIKE AN OLD FIREHORSE ANSWERING THE SIREN'S CALL--
--HE IS ROUSED FROM HIS SLUMBER BY A THREAT TO HUMAN LIFE.
ONLY THIS DOES HE VALUE ANY LONGER...
FREAKS... MONSTERS...
WHA'D'YA DO TO WALLY?
...ONLY LIFE...

...LIFE OF ANY KIND...
=YOWW!=
BTAK
PTOOM
WHA'D'YA DO THAT FOR? THOSE GUYS AIN'T HUMAN! I COULD'A BLASTED A COUPLE--
NO.
NO KILLING.
B-BUT--
--BUT THEY'RE GETTIN' AWAY!
WHAT'RE YOU, BLIND? DIDN'T YOU SEE 'EM?
FACES LIKE I DON'T KNOW WHAT, LIZARDS OR SNAKES OR SOMETHIN'-- MONSTERS, YEAH, THAT'S WHAT THEY WERE! MONSTERS!
WE GOTTA DO SOMETHIN', TELL SOMEBODY--
IT'S NOT MY CONCERN. I DON'T WANT TO BE INVOLVED.
OH, MAN, WAITASECOND... WAIT, PLEASE.
THEY GOT MY BUDDY. THEY GOT WALLY.
HE'S MY FRIEND. I GOTTA HELP HIM.
DON'T YOU GOT ANY FRIENDS? DON'T YOU KNOW HOW THAT FEELS?

WELL, I'LL TELL YOU HOW IT FEELS.
WALLY JORDON AND ME, WE GO WAY BACK--TA WHEN WE WERE A PAIR'A SNOT-NOSED PUNKS GROWIN' UP IN THE PROJECTS IN ALBANY.
"WE DID EVERYTHIN' TOGETHER--CUT CLASSES, CASED SMOKES, CHASED SKIRTS, GOT DRUNK...
"WHEN IT CAME TO THE BOOZE, NOBODY COULD PUT IT AWAY LIKE WAL. EVEN AS A KID, HE HAD A CAST-IRON GUT.
"I ADMIRED THAT. STILL DO.
"ASK ME, THINGS STARTED GOING BAD THE DAY HE MET CLARISSE.
"FIRST YA KNOW, HE DON'T HAVE TIME TO HANG OUT ANYMORE.
"NEXT YA KNOW, CLARISSE HAS ONE IN THE OVEN, AND WALLY, THE JERK, MARRIES HER.
"BOY, WAS THAT A MISTAKE.
"CLARISSE IS A BIG-MOUTHED BROAD, ALWAYS ON WAL'S CASE ABOUT THE WAY HE TREATS HER.
"ASK ME, SHE'S LUCKY HE DIDN'T LEAVE HER YEARS AGO.
"I MEAN, SHE WAS KILLIN' THE GUY.
"SO WHEN WALLY GETS SICK, I'M NOT SURPRISED.
"BUT THAT DOCTOR, SAYIN' WALLY IS SOME KINDA ALCOHOLIC...
"...GIMMIE A BREAK...NO WAY.
"I MEAN, IF WAL'S AN ALKY, WHAT DOES THAT MAKE ME?

"NOW CLARISSE, WHEN WAL GETS OUTTA THE HOSPITAL, SHE SAYS HE'S GOTTA TAKE A CURE OR HE CAN'T COME HOME.
SAVE OUR SOCIETY
"SO LIKE SOME SKIRT-SCARED WIMP, WAL FINDS THIS CLINIC IN DOWNTOWN ALBANY..."
...AND THAT'S THE LAST TIME WE SEE 'IM, FOUR WEEKS BACK.
BUT I FOUND HIM. HE'S HERE... WITH THEM MONSTERS.
I GOTTA BRING HIM BACK...
...AND YOU GOTTA HELP ME.
NO.
...OKAY, PAL.
I'LL DO IT MYSELF.
"DON'T YOU HAVE ANY FRIENDS?" LEO ASKED THE BLIND MAN.
NO, ACTUALLY... HE DOESN'T.
NOT ANY MORE.
IT'S BETTER THAT WAY.
FRIENDS BRING OBLIGATIONS.
OBLIGATIONS FORCE DECISIONS.
DECISIONS LEAD TO DISASTER...
HEARTBEAT.
FROM NOWHERE... ABOVE HIM.
YOU. I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD.

A USEFUL FICTION, ONE THAT OF LATE SEEMS TO HAVE OUTLIVED ITS USEFULNESS.
WE'LL DISCUSS IT LATER, IF YOU LIKE.
AT THE MOMENT, I NEED YOUR HELP.
YOU DON'T OWE ME ANY EXPLANATIONS, DR. STRANGE.
AS FOR MY HELP...

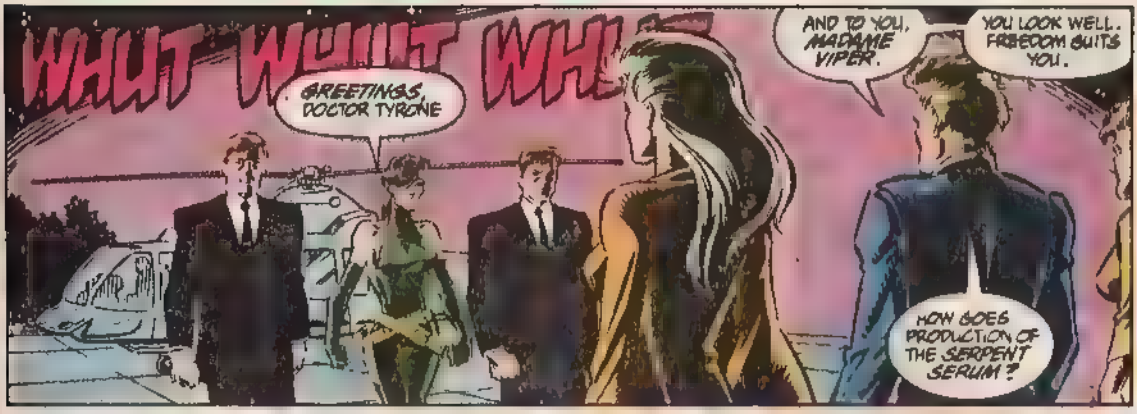
...I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING LEFT TO GIVE.
YOU HELPED THAT MAN JUST NOW.
REFLEX. THAT'S ALL.
DAREDEVIL, LISTEN TO ME...

FOR WEEKS I'VE BEEN AWARE OF A GROWING EVIL IN THE WORLD.
TODAY, IN THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO, I FINALLY SAW THE IMAGE OF THIS TOWN... AND I SAW YOU.

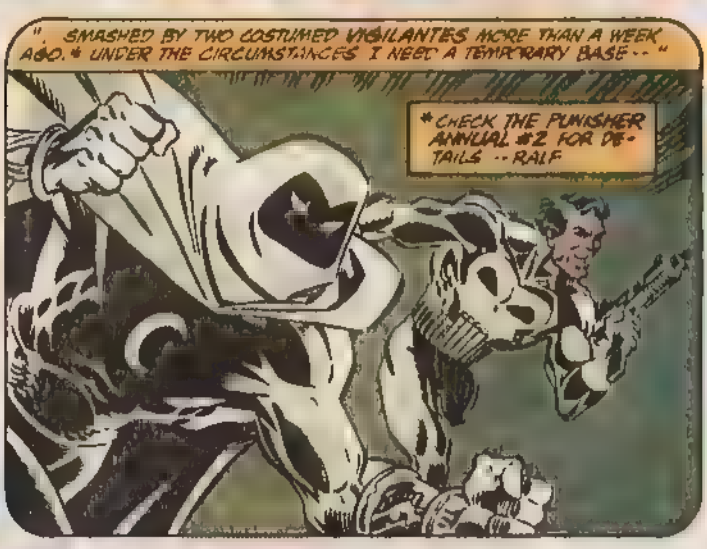
FATE BROUGHT YOU TO THIS PLACE AT THIS TIME FOR A PURPOSE, DAREDEVIL.
HELP ME.
IF FOR NO OTHER REASON, HELP ME AS A FRIEND.

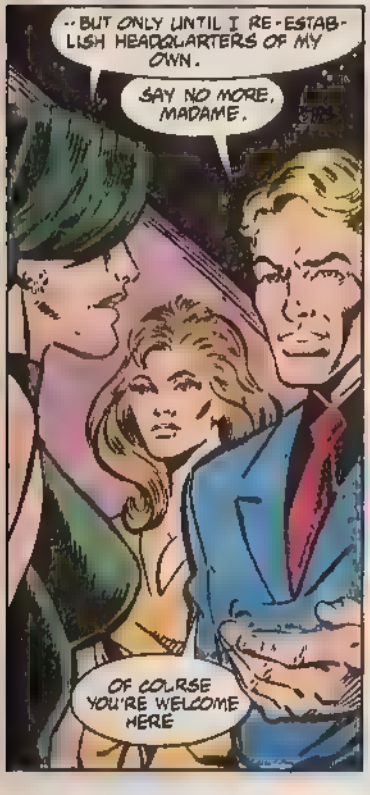
AT THAT MOMENT, FIVE MILES AWAY...
WHUT WHUT WHUT
AVE OUR SOCIETY
EMICAL DEPENDENCY
TREATMENT CENTER

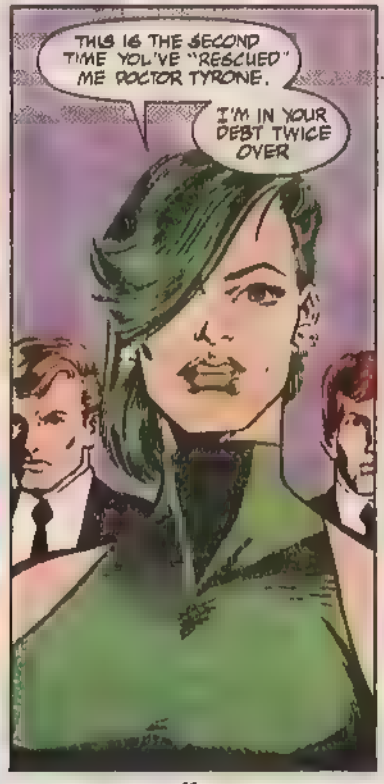
WHUT WHUT WHUT


WHUT WUHT WH!
GREETINGS, DOCTOR TYRONE
AND TO YOU, MADAME VIPER.
YOU LOOK WELL.. FREEDOM SUITS YOU.
HOW GOES PRODUCTION OF THE SERPENT SERUM?

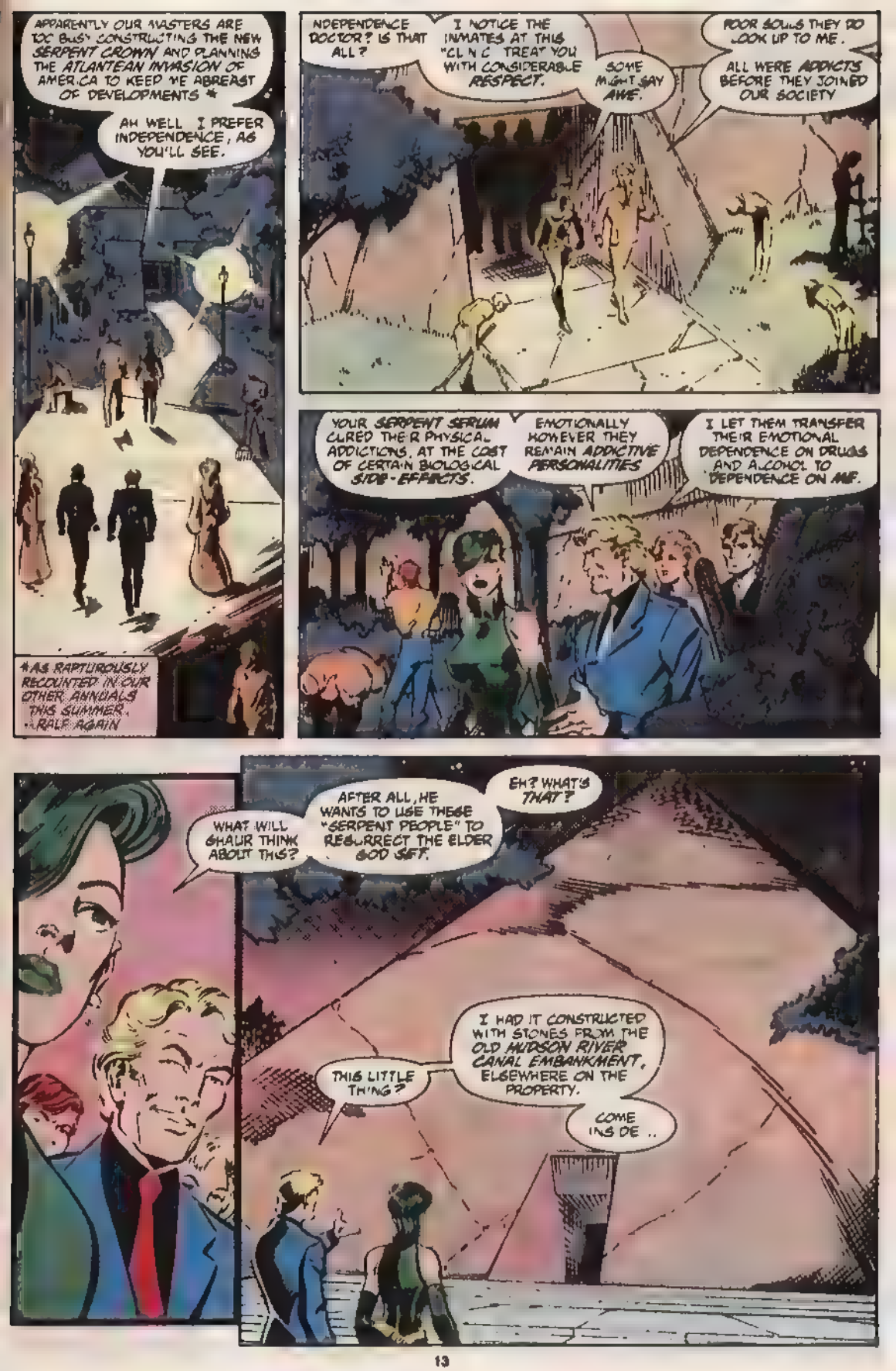
YOU HAVEN'T HEARD..?
WE'RE RATHER ISOLATED UP HERE AT THE CLINIC.
WHAT SHOULD I HAVE HEARD?
MY PRODUCTION FACILITIES WERE DESTROYED...

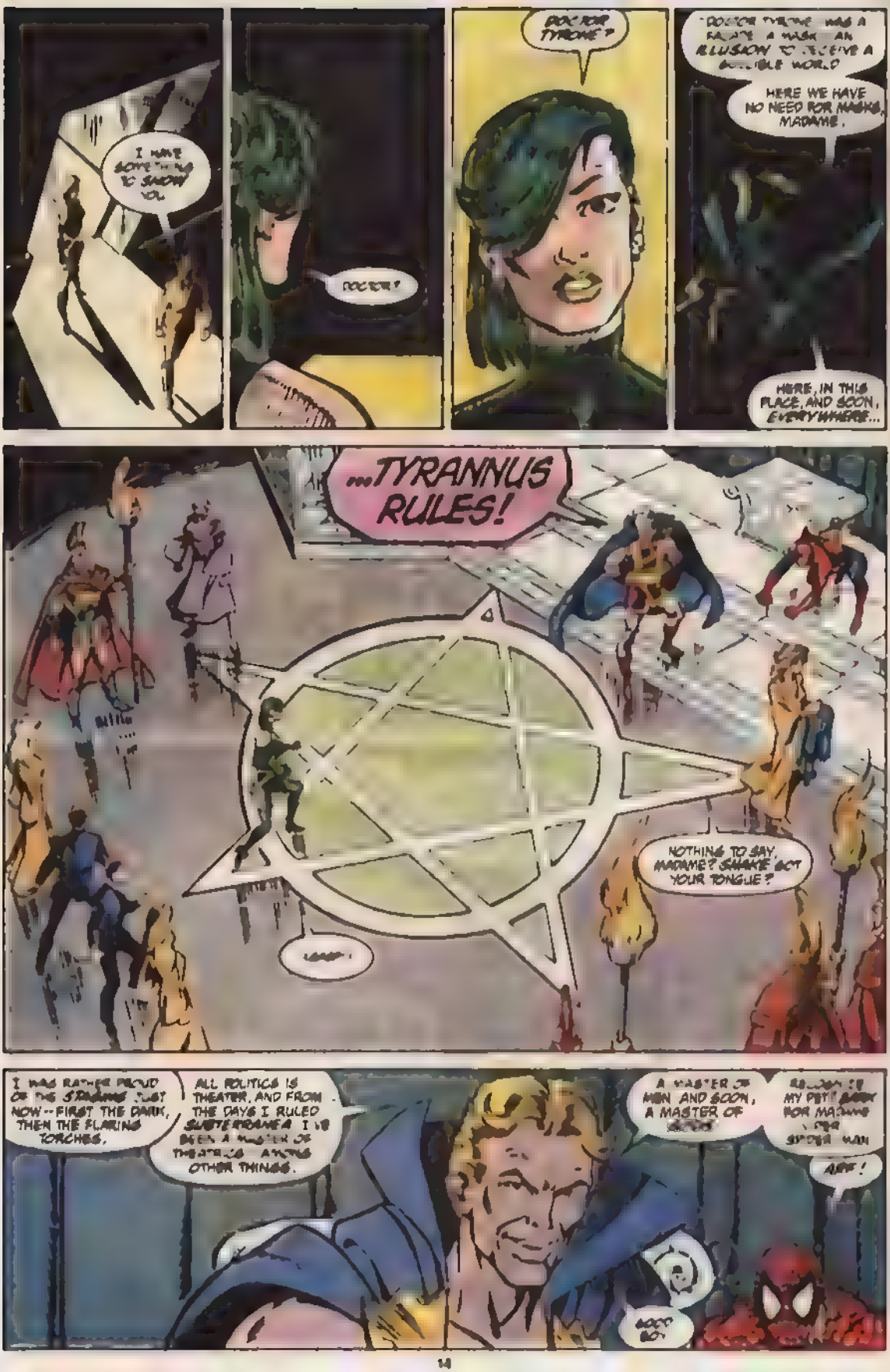

"...SMASHED BY TWO COSTUMED VIGILANTES MORE THAN A WEEK AGO.* UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES I NEED A TEMPORARY BASE--"
*CHECK THE PUNISHER ANNUAL #2 FOR DETAILS --RALF


--BUT ONLY UNTIL I RE-ESTABLISH HEADQUARTERS OF MY OWN.
SAY NO MORE, MADAME.
OF COURSE YOU'RE WELCOME HERE


THIS IS THE SECOND TIME YOU'VE "RESCUED" ME DOCTOR TYRONE.
I'M IN YOUR DEBT TWICE OVER

AND I REFUSE TO BE IN DEBT TO ANY MAN.
SOMEDAY I'LL BALANCE THE ACCOUNT BETWEEN US WITH YOUR DEATH
I'M SURPRISED LORD SHAUR OR LLYRA DIDN'T INFORM YOU OF MY... DIFFICULTIES.

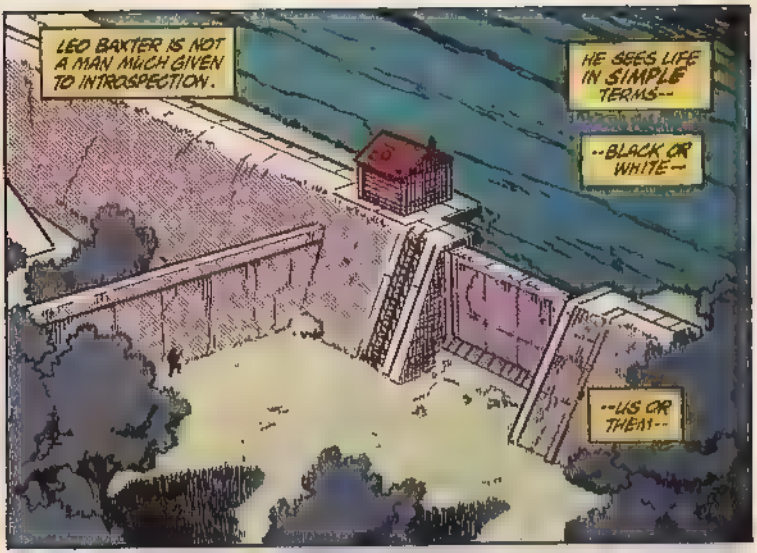

APPARENTLY OUR MASTERS ARE TOO BUSY CONSTRUCTING THE NEW SERPENT CROWN AND PLANNING THE ATLANTEAN INVASION OF AMERICA TO KEEP ME ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS *
AH WELL I PREFER INDEPENDENCE, AS YOU'LL SEE.
* AS RAPTUROUSLY RECOUNTED IN OUR OTHER ANNUALS THIS SUMMER. ..RALF AGAIN
NDEPENDENCE DOCTOR? IS THAT ALL?
I NOTICE THE INMATES AT THIS "CL N C TREAT YOU WITH CONSIDERABLE RESPECT.
SOME MIGHT SAY AWE.
POOR SOULS THEY DO LOOK UP TO ME.
ALL WERE ADDICTS BEFORE THEY JOINED OUR SOCIETY
YOUR SERPENT SERUM CURED THEIR PHYSICAL ADDICTIONS, AT THE COST OF CERTAIN BIOLOGICAL SIDE-EFFECTS.
EMOTIONALLY HOWEVER THEY REMAIN ADDICTIVE PERSONALITIES
I LET THEM TRANSFER THEIR EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCE ON DRUGS AND ALCOHOL TO DEPENDENCE ON ME.
WHAT WILL GHAUR THINK ABOUT THIS?
AFTER ALL, HE WANTS TO USE THESE "SERPENT PEOPLE" TO RESURRECT THE ELDER GOD SET.
EH? WHAT'S THAT?
THIS LITTLE THING?
I HAD IT CONSTRUCTED WITH STONES FROM THE OLD HUDSON RIVER CANAL EMBANKMENT, ELSEWHERE ON THE PROPERTY.
COME INSIDE ..


I HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU.
DOCTOR?
DOCTOR TYRONE?
HERE WE HAVE NO NEED FOR MASKS, MADAME.
HERE, IN THIS PLACE, AND SOON, EVERYWHERE...
...TYRANNUS RULES!
NOTHING TO SAY, MADAME? SHAKE GOT YOUR TONGUE?
I WAS RATHER PROUD OF THE STAGING JUST NOW -- FIRST THE DARK, THEN THE FLARING TORCHES.
ALL POLITICS IS THEATER, AND FROM THE DAYS I RULED SUBTERRANEA I'VE BEEN A MASTER OF THEATRICS AMONG OTHER THINGS.
A MASTER OF MEN AND SOON, A MASTER OF
ARF!

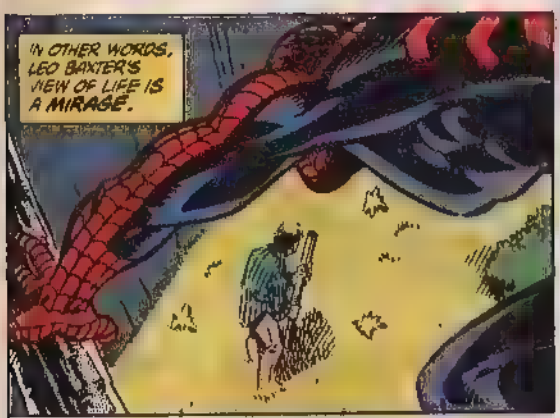
TYRANNUS FORGIVE THE OBVIOUS QUESTION--
BUT WHAT'S THE MEANING OF ALL THIS? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
LORD GHAUR AND I SHARE A SIMILAR GOAL, MY DEAR
THE RESURRECTION OF THE ELDER GOD SET
GRRRR
DOWN, BOY
GHAUR PLANS TO RAISE SET HIS WAY--
--I PLAN TO RAISE HIM MY WAY
WHOEVER SUCCEEDS FIRST WILL GAIN POWER BEYOND--
WELL
YOU GET THE IDEA
TAKE THEM.
WHAK
WHAK
TYRANNUS, YOU'RE INSANE! HOW CAN YOU RAISE SET BEFORE LORD GHAUR?
HE HAS TWO ENTIRE NATIONS WORKING TO ASSIST HIM-- AND YOU--
YOU
I HAVE THE FLAME OF LIFE
I HAVE THE POWER TO SAP YOUR WILL OR DRAIN YOUR VERY LIFE FORCE IF I SO CHOOSE
I HAVE THE SACRED BOOK OF KELL
AND NOW WITH YOU I HAVE A PROPER HUMAN SACRIFICE

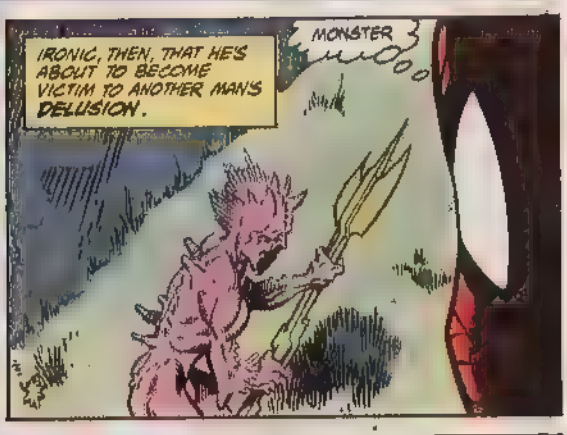
AT THAT MOMENT, OUTSIDE THE CENTURY-OLD DIKE THAT SURROUNDS THE CLINIC GROUNDS...
GOTTA BE A WAY OVER THIS WALL
MAYBE BY THAT CANAL GATE I SAW--
HSSSSS
HSSSSS
NO INTRUDERS! DOCTOR SAYS, INTRUDERS DIE--
KRAK
MAN WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE FOR A DRINK
TEN MINUTES LATER
A SHAME I HAD TO HYPNOTIZE YOU, MADAME YOU'D ENJOY THIS.
I SECURED THE BOOK OF KELL IN NEW YORK LAST WEEK AT THE SAME TIME I ACQUIRED MY PET.*
QUITE A REMARKABLE BOOK, ACTUALLY--
*SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #9.-- RALF
--OVERFLOWING WITH TIMEWORN INCANTATIONS INCLUDING ONE TO SUMMON WHAT IT CALLS "THE SNAKE GOD."
LET'S TRY IT SHALL-- EH?
MASTER!
AN INTRUDER-- OUTSIDE THE CANAL GATE--
REALLY?

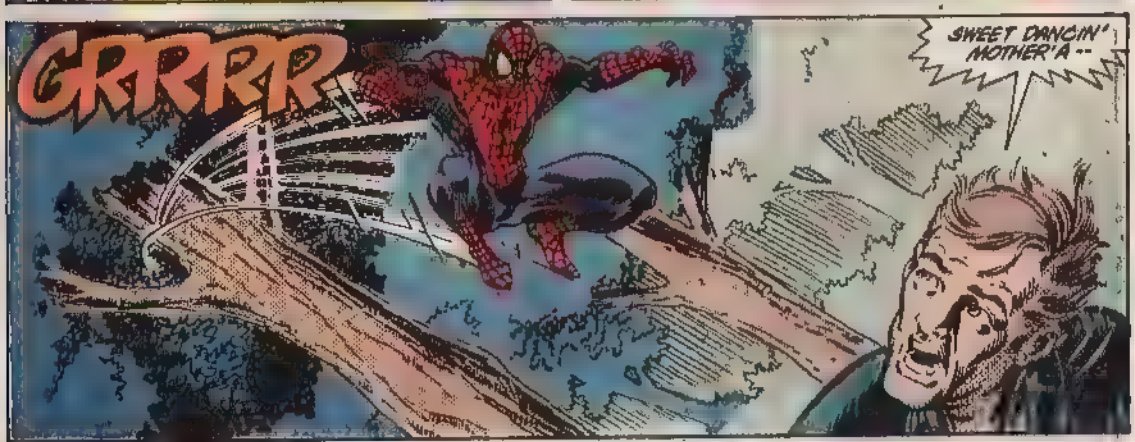
SPIDER-MAN, THERE'S A MONSTER LURKING NEAR THE RIVER EMBANKMENT.
BE A GOOD DOG AND FETCH ME HIS HEAD.
GNRRRR!

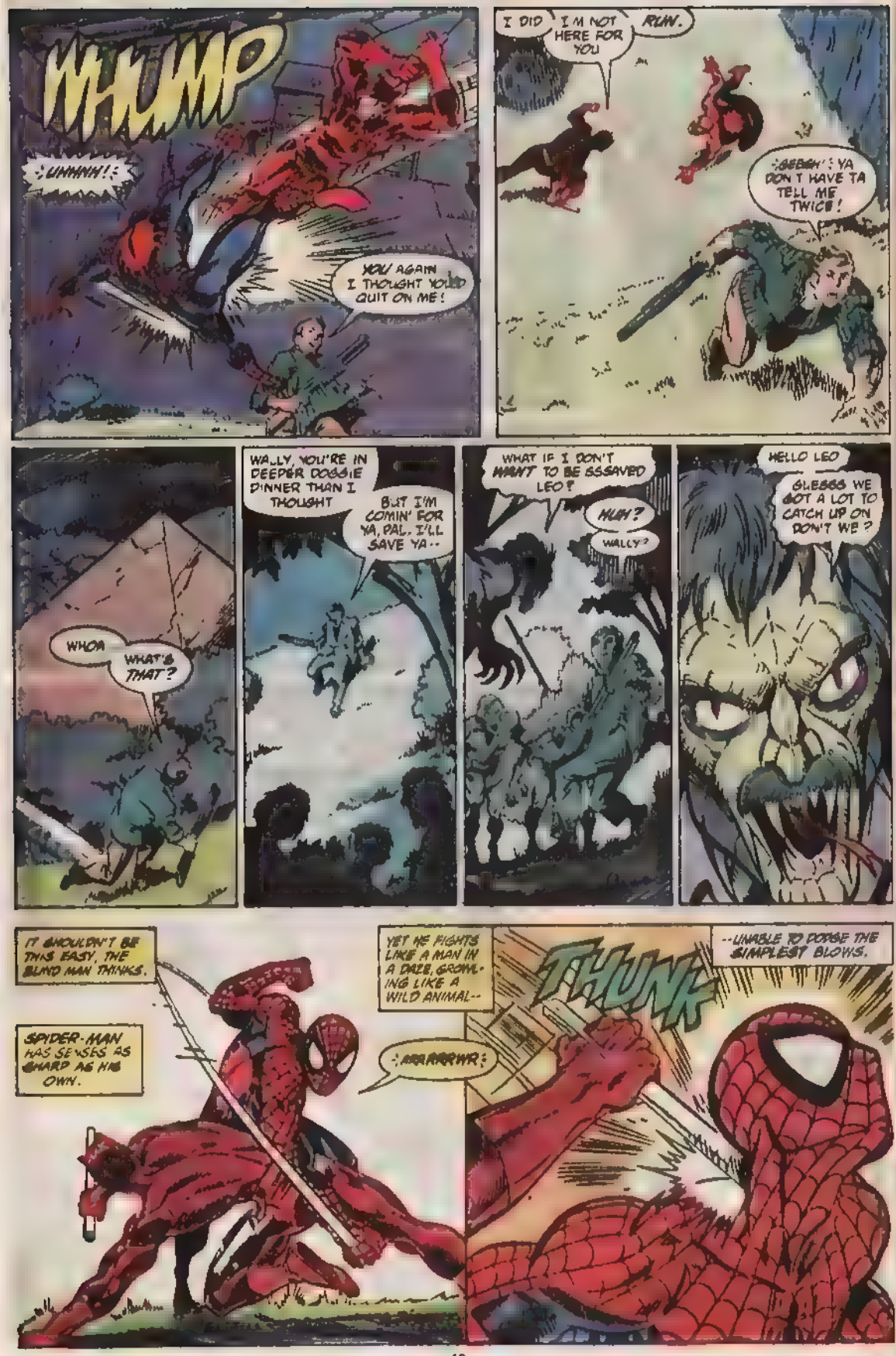

LEO BAXTER IS NOT A MAN MUCH GIVEN TO INTROSPECTION.
HE SEES LIFE IN SIMPLE TERMS--
--BLACK OR WHITE--
--US OR THEM--

--FRIEND OR ENEMY.

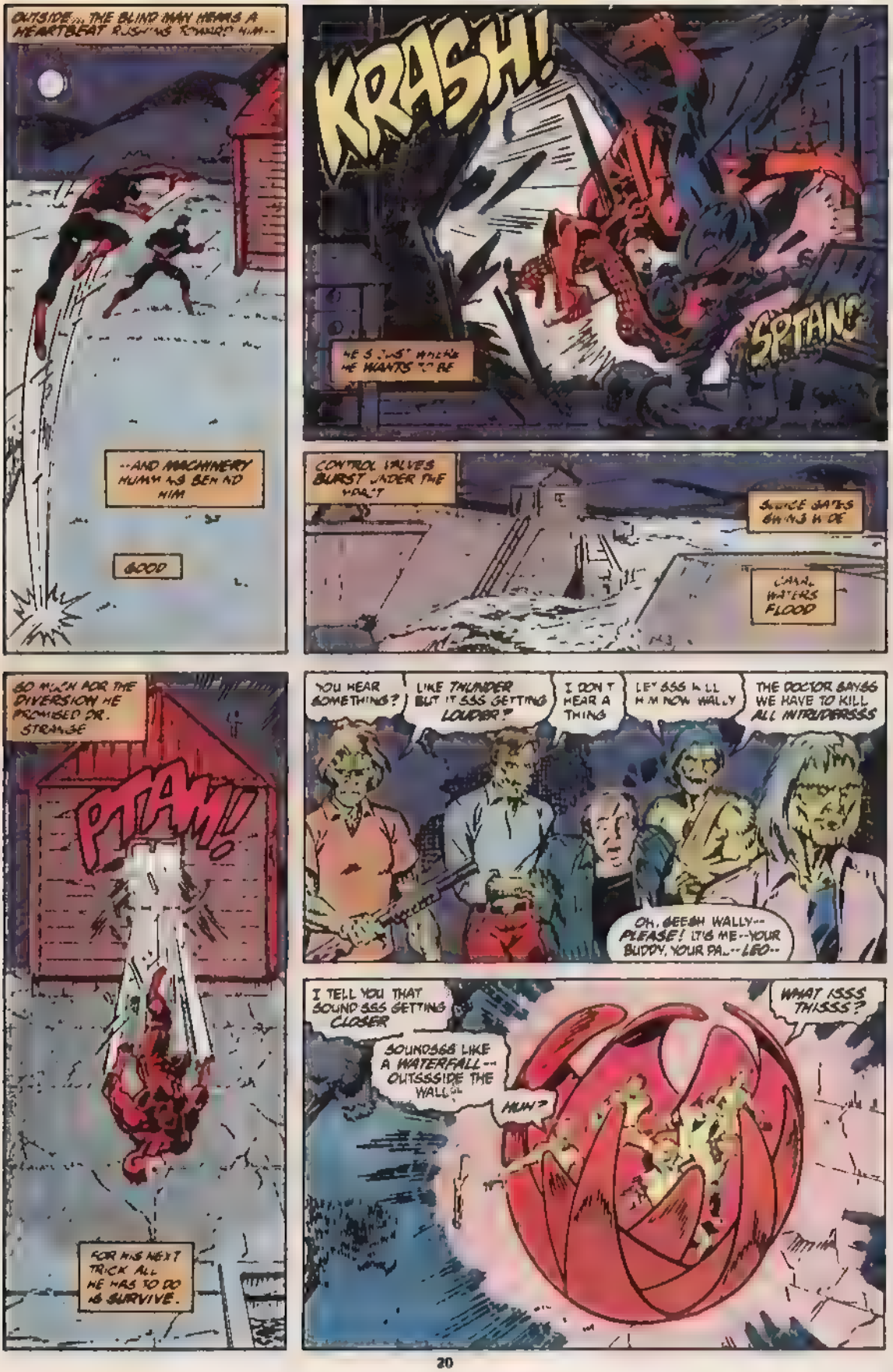

IN OTHER WORDS, LEO BAXTER'S VIEW OF LIFE IS A MIRAGE.

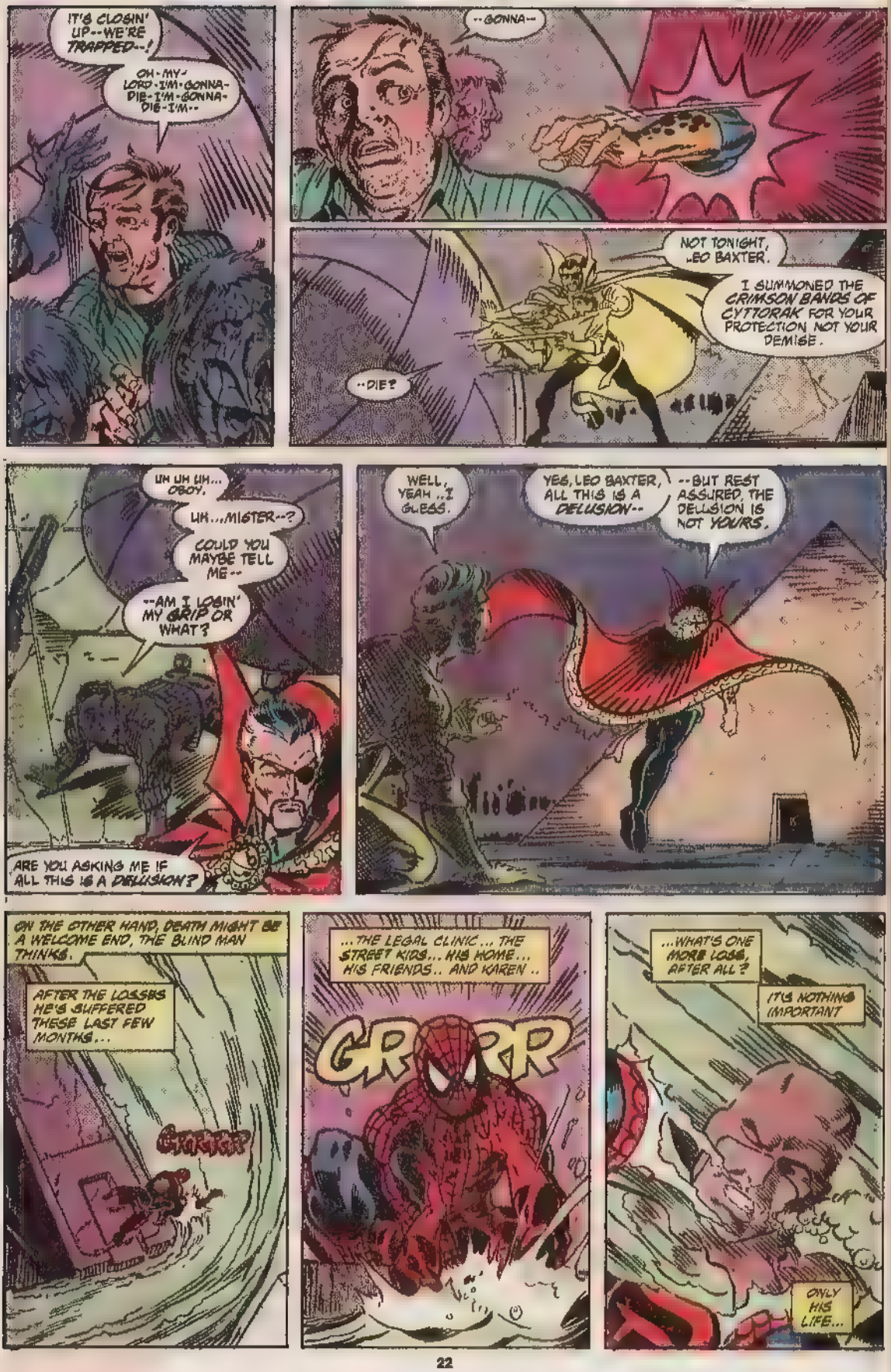

IRONIC, THEN, THAT HE'S ABOUT TO BECOME VICTIM TO ANOTHER MAN'S DELUSION.
MONSTER


GRRRRR
SWEET DANCIN' MOTHER'A --

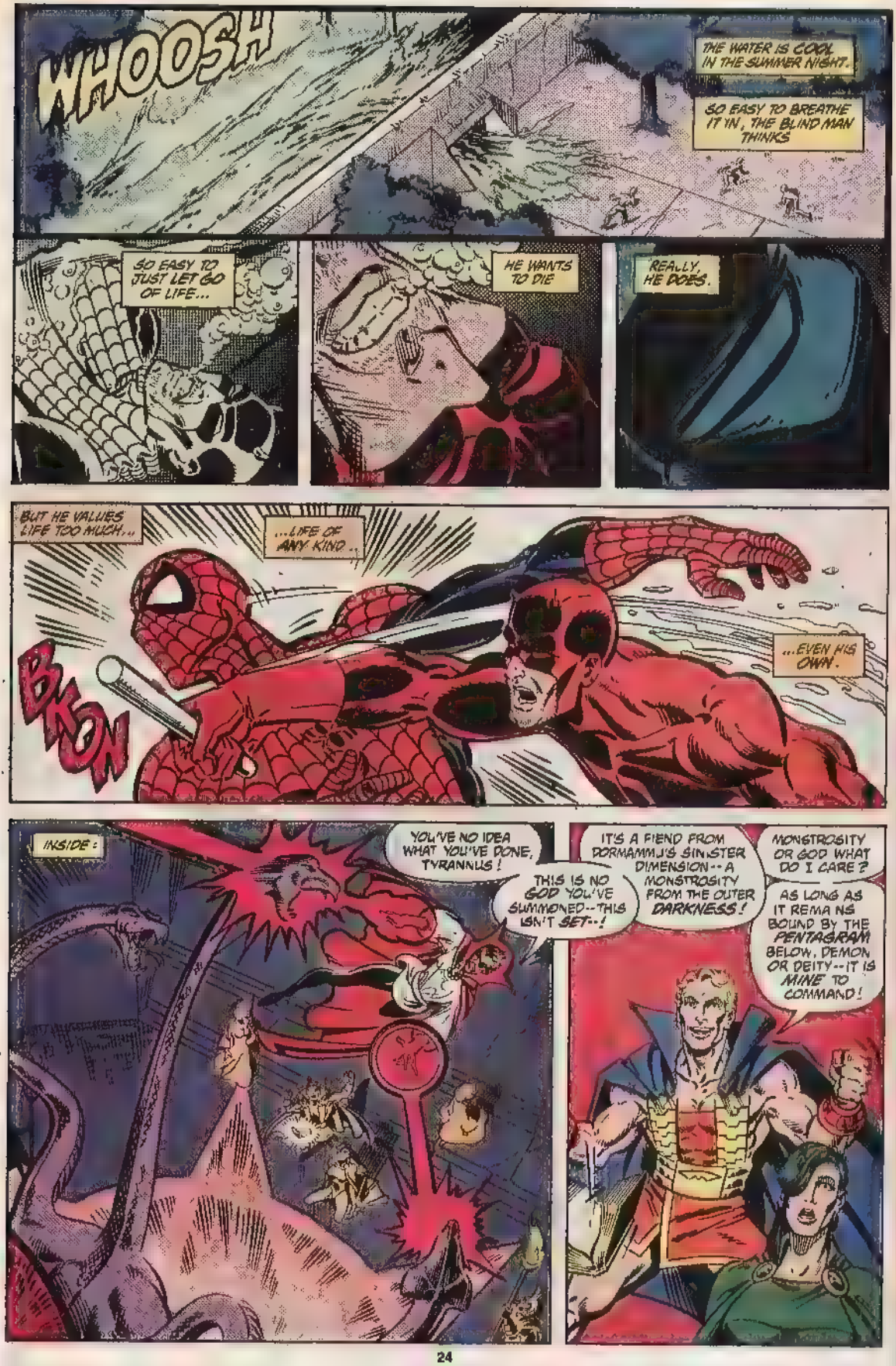

THUMP
:UHHHH!:
YOU AGAIN I THOUGHT YOU'D QUIT ON ME!
I DID
I'M NOT HERE FOR YOU
RUN.
:GEESH!: YA DON'T HAVE TA TELL ME TWICE!
WHOA
WHAT'S THAT?
WALLY, YOU'RE IN DEEPER DOGGIE DINNER THAN I THOUGHT
BUT I'M COMIN' FOR YA, PAL. I'LL SAVE YA--
WHAT IF I DON'T WANT TO BE SSSAVED LEO!?
HUH?
WALLY?
HELLO LEO
GUESS WE GOT A LOT TO CATCH UP ON DON'T WE?
IT SHOULDN'T BE THIS EASY, THE BLIND MAN THINKS.
SPIDER-MAN HAS SENSES AS SHARP AS HIS OWN.
YET HE FIGHTS LIKE A MAN IN A DAZE, GROWLING LIKE A WILD ANIMAL--
:ARRRRRWR:
THUNK
--UNABLE TO DODGE THE SIMPLEST BLOWS.

HE'S EITHER DRUGGED OR HYPNOTIZED.
THAT'S THE ONLY POSSIBLE EXPLANATION, THE BLIND MAN DECIDES.
BUT EVEN IN THIS STATE, SPIDER MAN IS A DANGEROUS FOE...
KRAK
...AND THE BLIND MAN CAN'T CHANCE A DEFEAT.
HE PROMISED A FRIEND HE WOULD PROVIDE A DIVERSION FIVE MINUTES FROM NOW.
A PROMISE TO A FRIEND IS A SACRED THING, THE BLIND MAN KNOWS...
AFTER ALL, HE'S BROKEN MORE THAN HIS SHARE.
ELSEWHERE, INSIDE THE PYRAMID...
BEHOLD, THE DOORWAY TO BEYOND!
ARISE, O LORD OF SERPENTS!
BY THE WORDS OF THIS BOOK, WE BESEECH YOU, ARISE AND ATTEND US!
FOR OBSERVE, WE BRING YOU A GIFT OF FOOD AND DRINK.
MAY YOU FIND HER AN AGREEABLE REPAST.

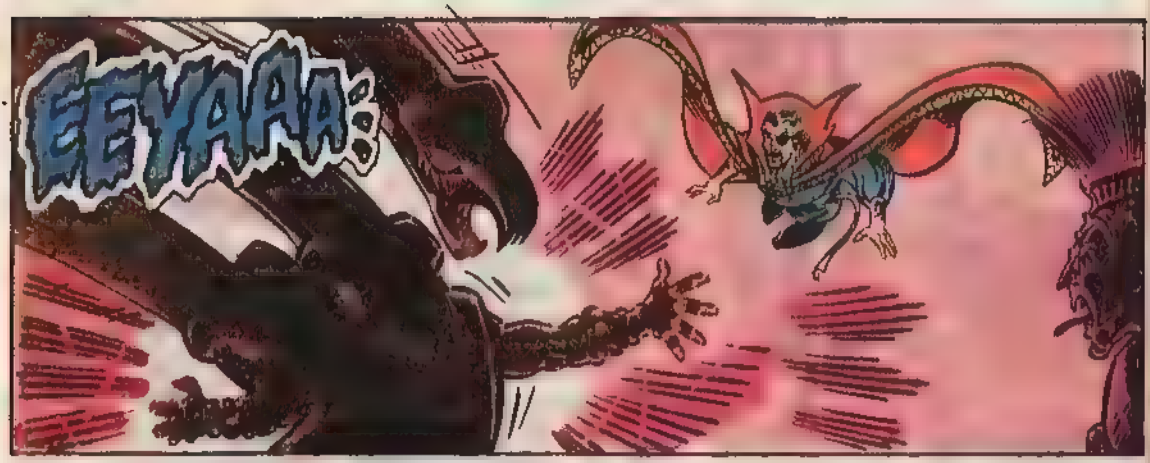

OUTSIDE... THE BLIND MAN HEARS A HEARTBEAT RUSHING TOWARD HIM--
--AND MACHINERY HUMMING BEHIND HIM
GOOD
KRASH!
SPTANG
HE'S JUST WHERE HE WANTS TO BE
CONTROL VALVES BURST UNDER THE STRAIN
SLUICE GATES SWING WIDE
CANAL WATERS FLOOD
SO MUCH FOR THE DIVERSION HE PROMISED DR. STRANGE
PTAM!!
FOR HIS NEXT TRICK ALL HE HAS TO DO IS SURVIVE.
YOU HEAR SOMETHING?
LIKE THUNDER BUT IT SSS GETTING LOUDER!
I DON'T HEAR A THING
LET SSS WILL HIM NOW WALLY
THE DOCTOR SAYSS WE HAVE TO KILL ALL INTRUDERSSS
OH, GEESH WALLY-- PLEASE! IT'S ME--YOUR BUDDY, YOUR PA...--LEO--
I TELL YOU THAT SOUND SSS GETTING CLOSER
SOUNDSSS LIKE A WATERFALL-- OUTSSSIDE THE WALL
HUH?
WHAT ISSS THISSS?

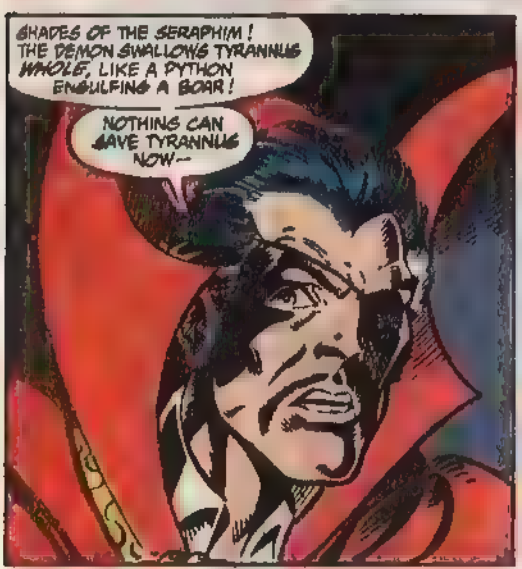

IT'S CLOSIN' UP--WE'RE TRAPPED--!
OH-MY-LORD-I'M-GONNA-DIE-I'M-GONNA-DIE-I'M--
--GONNA--
NOT TONIGHT, LEO BAXTER.
I SUMMONED THE CRIMSON BANDS OF CYTTORAK FOR YOUR PROTECTION NOT YOUR DEMISE.
--DIE?
UH UH UH... OBOY,
UH...MISTER--?
COULD YOU MAYBE TELL ME--
--AM I LOSIN' MY GRIP OR WHAT?
ARE YOU ASKING ME IF ALL THIS IS A DELUSION?
WELL, YEAH..I GUESS.
YES, LEO BAXTER, ALL THIS IS A DELUSION--
--BUT REST ASSURED, THE DELUSION IS NOT YOURS.
ON THE OTHER HAND, DEATH MIGHT BE A WELCOME END, THE BLIND MAN THINKS.
AFTER THE LOSSES HE'S SUFFERED THESE LAST FEW MONTHS...
...THE LEGAL CLINIC... THE STREET KIDS... HIS HOME... HIS FRIENDS.. AND KAREN ..
GRRRR
...WHAT'S ONE MORE LOSS, AFTER ALL?
IT'S NOTHING IMPORTANT
ONLY HIS LIFE...

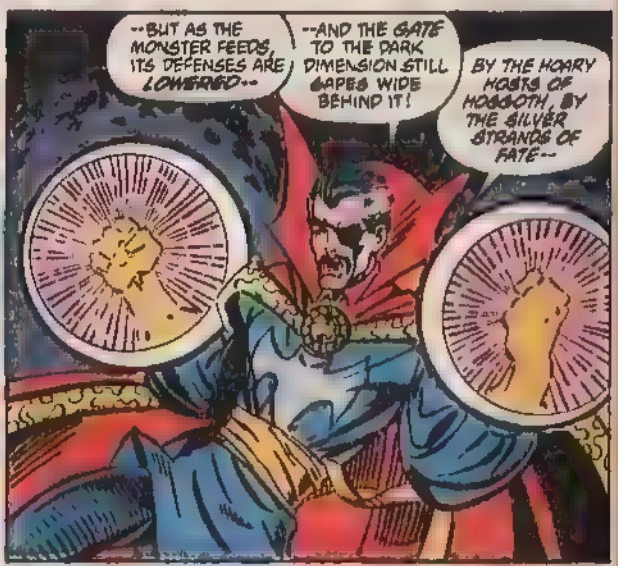
LISSSTEN! DO YOU HEAR? A ROARING LIKE--
OH MY--
WHOOSH
--GOD OF SERPENTS, COME FORTH INTO OUR WORLD!
TAKE THIS OFFERING--
--AND IF IT PLEASES YOU, GRANT A BOON OF POWER TO YOUR SLAVE!
NO!
CREATURE OF DREAD DORMAMMU, STAND BACK, I COMMAND YOU!
W-WHAT?
DR. STRANGE? BUT--I HEARD YOU WERE DEAD! HOW COULD YOU--? WHY ARE YOU--
--WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

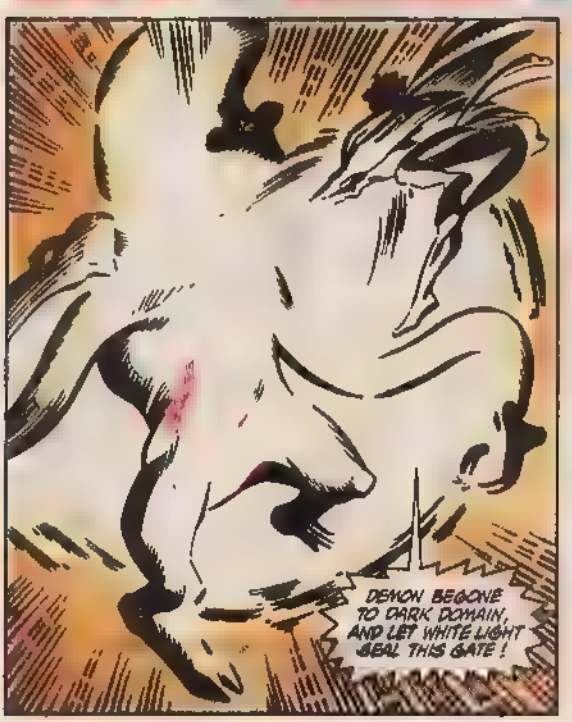

WHOOSH
THE WATER IS COOL IN THE SUMMER NIGHT.
SO EASY TO BREATHE IT IN, THE BLIND MAN THINKS
SO EASY TO JUST LET GO OF LIFE...
HE WANTS TO DIE
REALLY, HE DOES.
BUT HE VALUES LIFE TOO MUCH...
...LIFE OF ANY KIND...
BKOW
...EVEN HIS OWN.
INSIDE:
YOU'VE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'VE DONE, TYRANNUS!
THIS IS NO GOD YOU'VE SUMMONED--THIS ISN'T SET--!
IT'S A FIEND FROM DORMAMMU'S SINISTER DIMENSION--A MONSTROSITY FROM THE OUTER DARKNESS!
MONSTROSITY OR GOD WHAT DO I CARE?
AS LONG AS IT REMAINS BOUND BY THE PENTAGRAM BELOW, DEMON OR DEITY--IT IS MINE TO COMMAND!

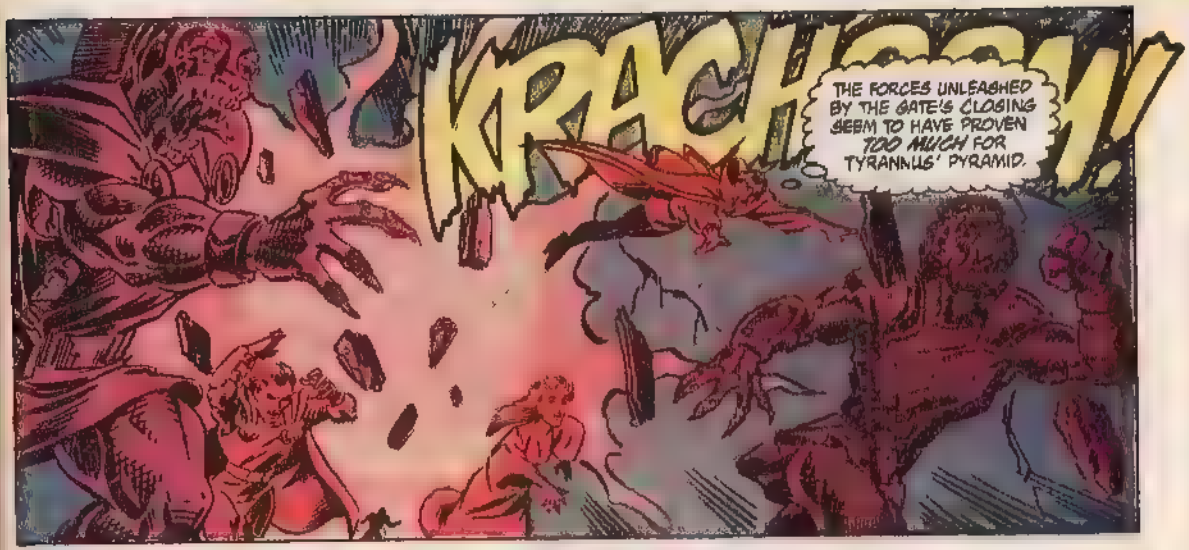
WITNESS, STRANGE, AS I FOCUS THE FULL FORCE OF MY WILL AND THE FLAME OF LIFE UPON THE CREATURE'S MENTALITY.
IT TAKES ALL MY CONCENTRATION, BUT AT LAST, I AM ITS MASTER!
ITS MASTER, TYRANNUS...
-GUNNGH!-
...BUT NOT MINE!
WHEN YOU SHIFTED YOUR CONCENTRATION TO THAT DEMON, YOU LOST CONTROL OF MY MIND!
POOR STRATEGY FROM SUCH A BOLD MASTER OF MEN AND GODS!
NO! NOT INSIDE THE PENTAGRAM--
--I HAVE NO DOMINION OVER THE DEMON--
--INSIDE THE PENTAGRAM--

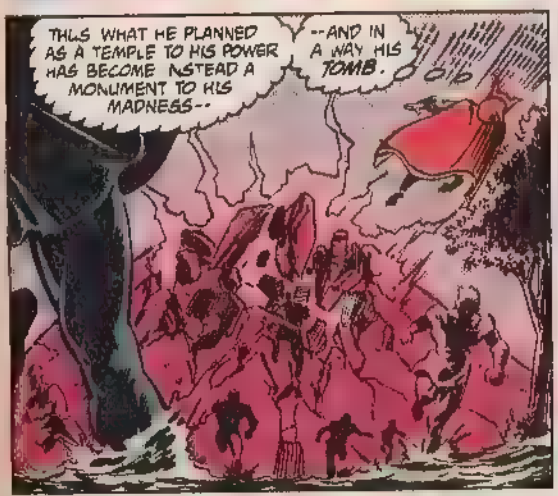

EEYAAA:


SHADES OF THE SERAPHIM! THE DEMON SWALLOWS TYRANNUS WHOLE, LIKE A PYTHON ENGULFING A BOAR!
NOTHING CAN SAVE TYRANNUS NOW--


--BUT AS THE MONSTER FEEDS, ITS DEFENSES ARE LOWERED--
--AND THE GATE TO THE DARK DIMENSION STILL GAPES WIDE BEHIND IT!
BY THE HOARY HOSTS OF HOGGOTH, BY THE SILVER STRANDS OF FATE--

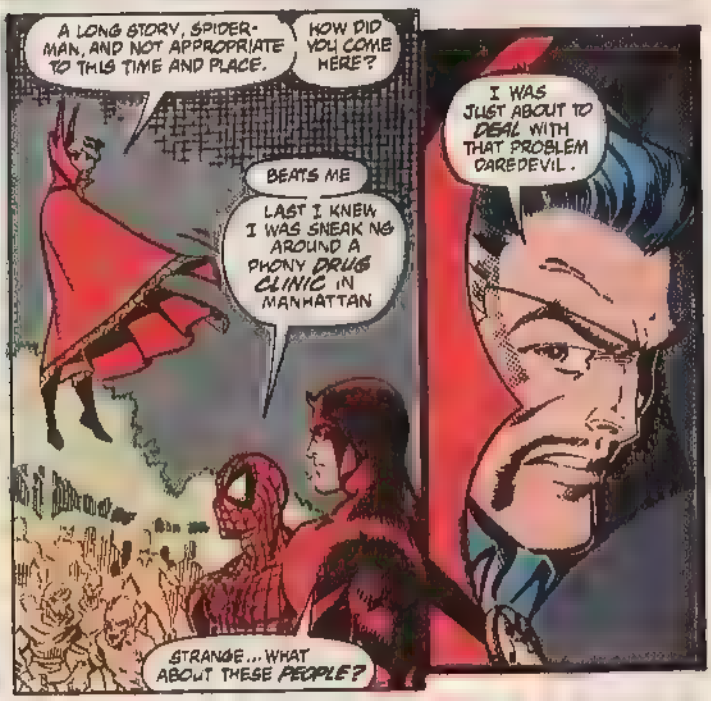

DEMON BEGONE TO DARK DOMAIN, AND LET WHITE LIGHT SEAL THIS GATE!

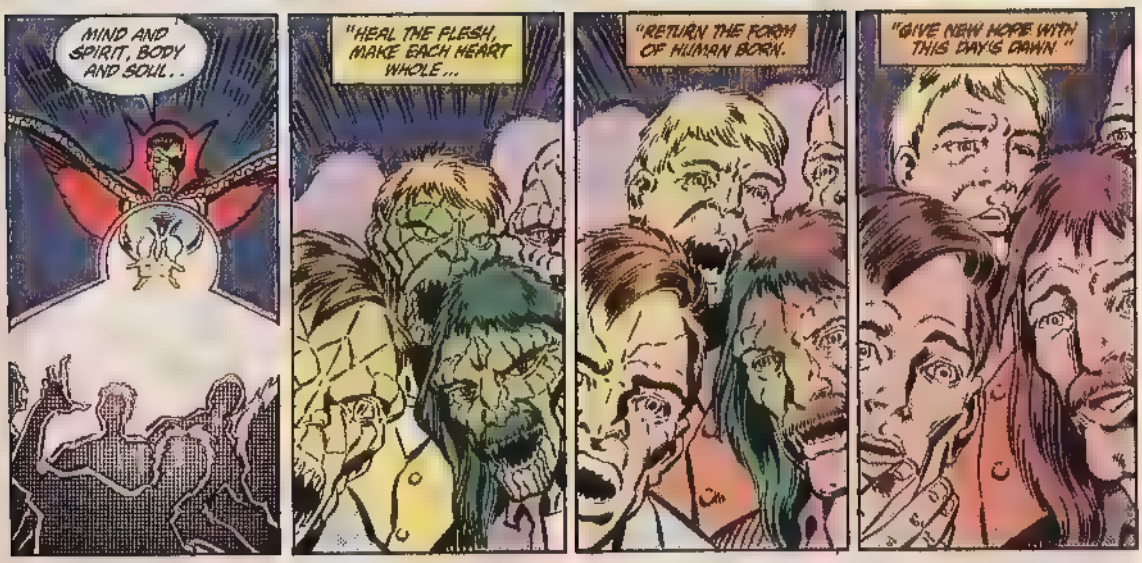

KRACH!!
THE FORCES UNLEASHED BY THE GATE'S CLOSING SEEM TO HAVE PROVEN TOO MUCH FOR TYRANNUS' PYRAMID.

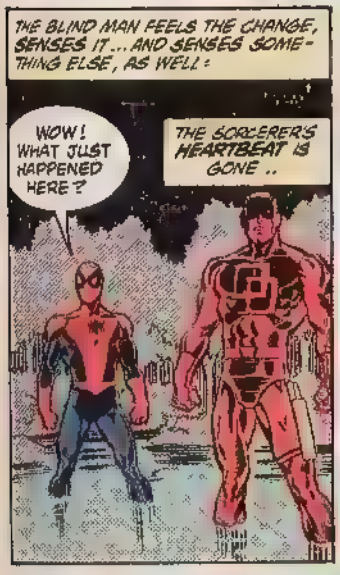

THIS WHAT HE PLANNED AS A TEMPLE TO HIS POWER HAS BECOME INSTEAD A MONUMENT TO HIS MADNESS--
--AND IN A WAY HIS TOMB.

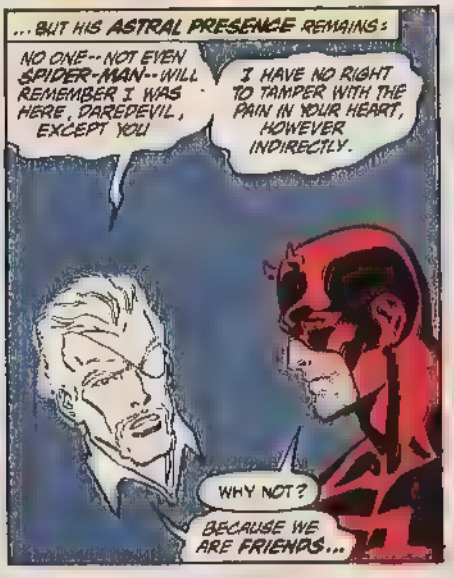
AND WHAT OF THESE UNFORTUNATES--?
WITHOUT THEIR MASTER, THEY ARE LOST AND BEWILDERED... BRUTES DEFORMED IN MIND AS WELL AS IN BODY.

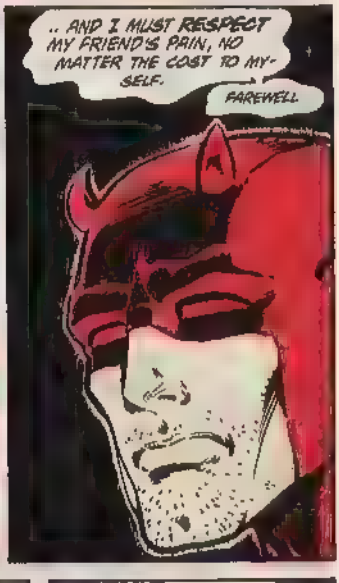
PERHAPS I CAN PERFORM ONE FINAL SERVICE.
WHAT'S UP, DOC?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD.


A LONG STORY, SPIDER-MAN, AND NOT APPROPRIATE TO THIS TIME AND PLACE.
HOW DID YOU COME HERE?
BEATS ME
LAST I KNEW I WAS SNEAKING AROUND A PHONY DRUG CLINIC IN MANHATTAN
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO DEAL WITH THAT PROBLEM DAREDEVIL.
STRANGE... WHAT ABOUT THESE PEOPLE?

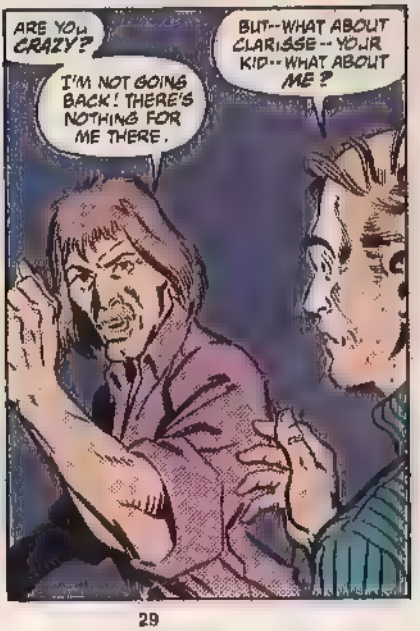

MIND AND SPIRIT, BODY AND SOUL..
"HEAL THE FLESH, MAKE EACH HEART WHOLE...
"RETURN THE FORM OF HUMAN BORN.
"GIVE NEW HOPE WITH THIS DAY'S DAWN."


THE BLIND MAN FEELS THE CHANGE, SENSES IT... AND SENSES SOMETHING ELSE, AS WELL!
WOW! WHAT JUST HAPPENED HERE?
THE SORCERER'S HEARTBEAT IS GONE..

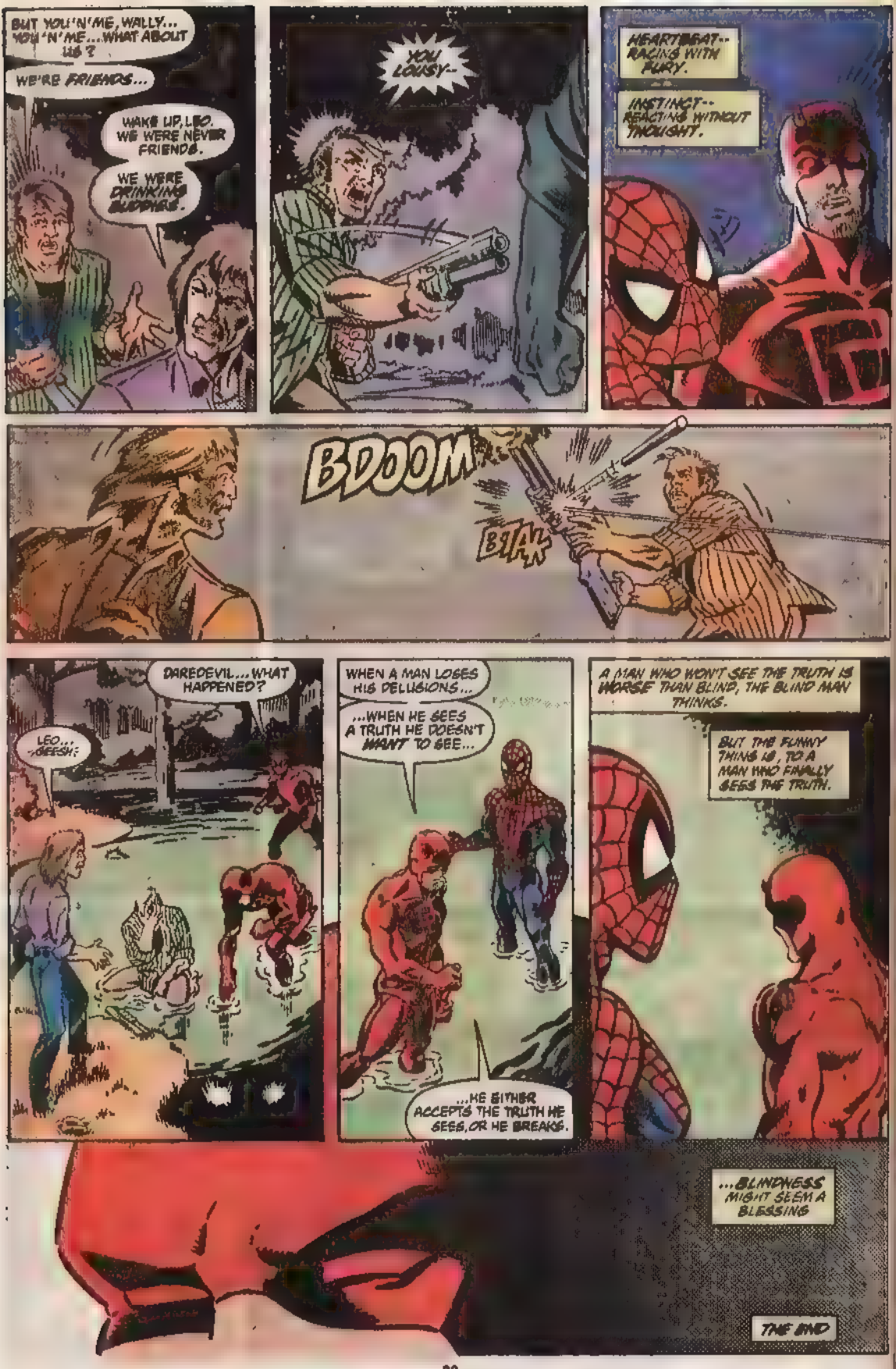

...BUT HIS ASTRAL PRESENCE REMAINS!
NO ONE--NOT EVEN SPIDER-MAN--WILL REMEMBER I WAS HERE, DAREDEVIL, EXCEPT YOU
I HAVE NO RIGHT TO TAMPER WITH THE PAIN IN YOUR HEART, HOWEVER INDIRECTLY.
WHY NOT?
BECAUSE WE ARE FRIENDS...


..AND I MUST RESPECT MY FRIEND'S PAIN, NO MATTER THE COST TO MYSELF.
FAREWELL

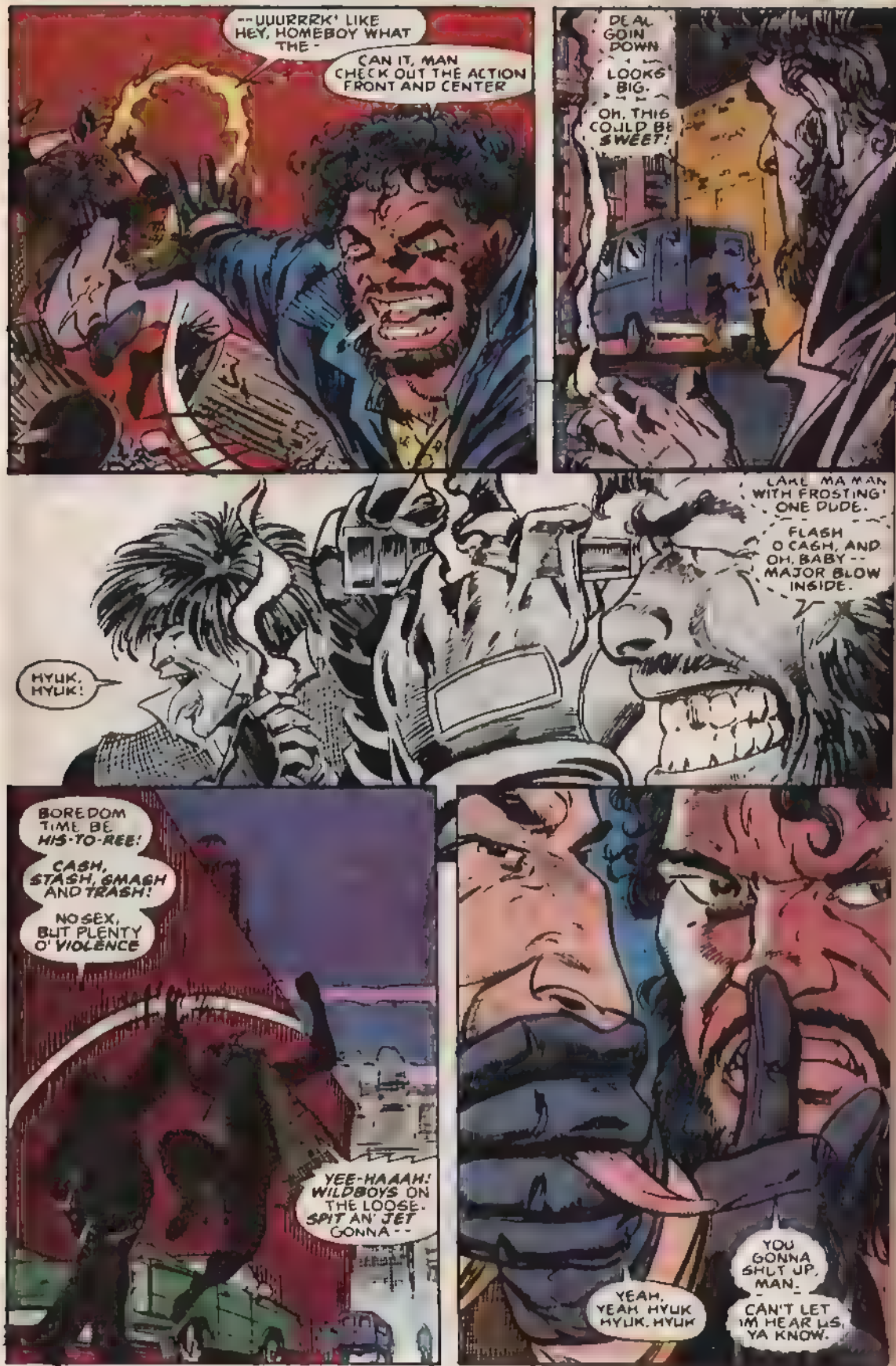
WALLY!
YOU'RE BACK! YOU'RE OKAY!
WE CAN GO HOME, WAL--YOU'N ME--WE CAN GO HOME!

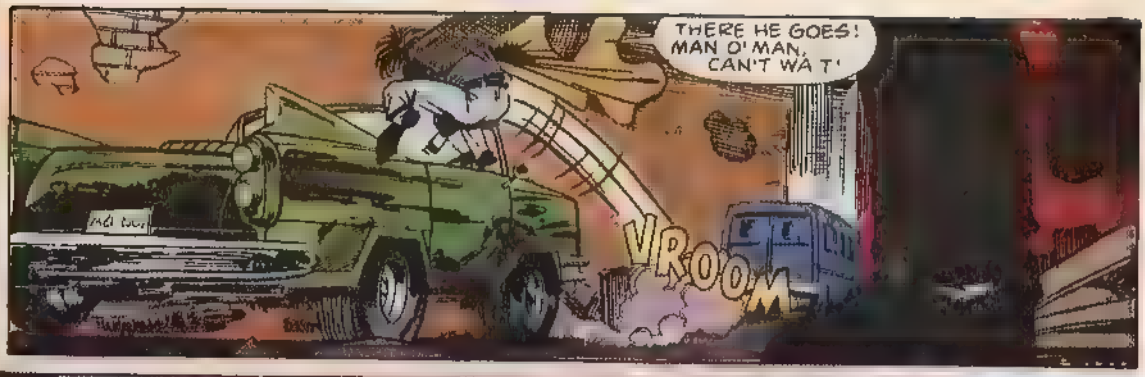

ARE YOU CRAZY?
I'M NOT GOING BACK! THERE'S NOTHING FOR ME THERE.
BUT--WHAT ABOUT CLARISSE--YOUR KID--WHAT ABOUT ME?

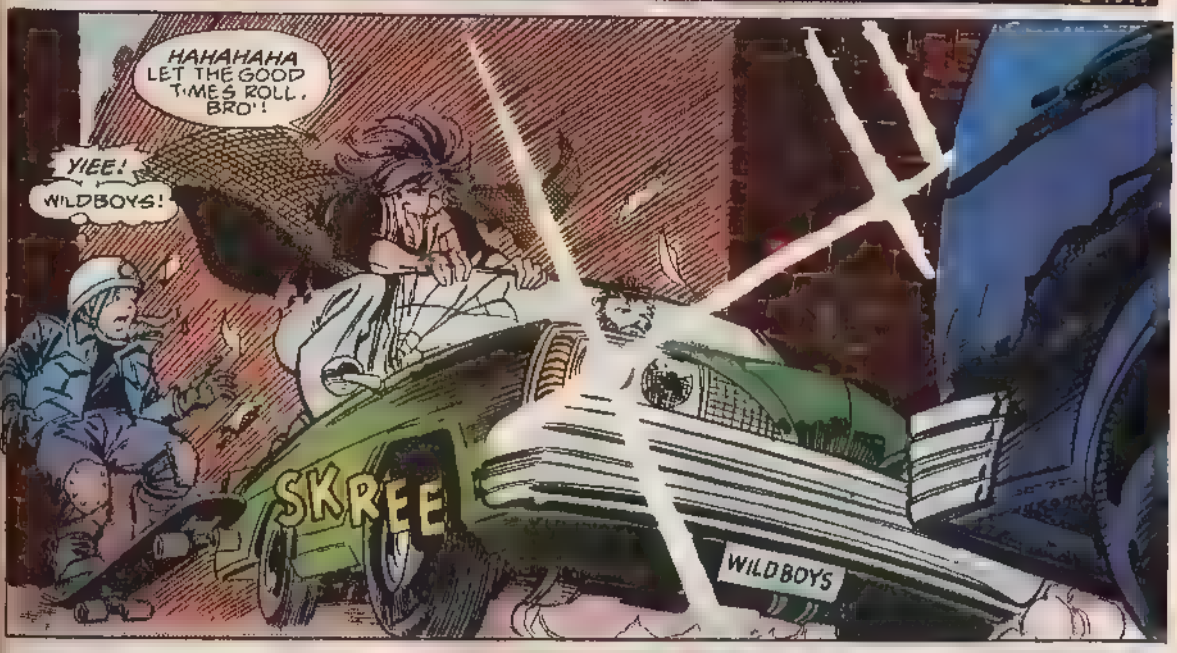
CLARISSE HATES ME, AND I DON'T BLAME HER. I'M NOT TOO FOND OF HER EITHER.
SHE'S BETTER OFF ON HER OWN. SO'S MY KID. SO AM I.


BUT YOU 'N' ME, WALLY... YOU 'N' ME... WHAT ABOUT LEO ?
WE'RE FRIENDS...
WAKE UP, LEO. WE WERE NEVER FRIENDS.
WE WERE DRINKING BUDDIES.
YOU LOUSY--
HEARTBEAT-- RACING WITH FURY.
INSTINCT-- REACTING WITHOUT THOUGHT.
BDOOM
BLAM
DAREDEVIL... WHAT HAPPENED?
LEO... -GEESH-
WHEN A MAN LOSES HIS DELUSIONS...
...WHEN HE SEES A TRUTH HE DOESN'T WANT TO SEE...
...HE EITHER ACCEPTS THE TRUTH HE SEES, OR HE BREAKS.
A MAN WHO WON'T SEE THE TRUTH IS WORSE THAN BLIND, THE BLIND MAN THINKS.
BUT THE FUNNY THING IS, TO A MAN WHO FINALLY SEES THE TRUTH.
...BLINDNESS MIGHT SEEM A BLESSING
THE END

HELL'S KITCHEN
HYUK. HYUK, YUK
STAN LEE PRESENTS THE WILD BOYS
ROLE REVERSAL
SO LIKE JET MA'MAN, YA EVER LIKE, YOU KNOW, CHECK OUT A MATCH BURNIN' TWICE, HYUK, HYUK!
YO, MAN. CHILL IT. GOT TO BE SOMETHIN' MORE HAPPENIN THAN WATCHIN' YOUR SORRY SHENANIGANS.
HUH?
BOREDOM TIME, SPIT. GOT ANY IDEAS?
BABES' GRAB SOME TUNES AND CHECK OUT--
GREGOR WRIGHT WRITER COLORIST
JIM LEE PENCILER
KIM DEMULDER INKER
RICHARD STARKINGS LETTERER
RALPH MACCHIO NOT THE "KARATE KID"
TOM DEFALCO WILD CHIEF


--UUURRRK' LIKE HEY, HOMEBOY WHAT THE -
CAN IT, MAN CHECK OUT THE ACTION FRONT AND CENTER
DEAL GOIN DOWN
LOOKS BIG.
OH, THIS COULD BE SWEET!
LAME MA MAN WITH FROSTING' ONE DUDE.
FLASH O CASH, AND OH, BABY -- MAJOR BLOW INSIDE.
HYUK, HYUK!
BOREDOM TIME BE HIS-TO-REE!
CASH, STASH, SMASH AND TRASH!
NO SEX, BUT PLENTY O' VIOLENCE
YEE-HAAAH! WILDBOYS ON THE LOOSE. SPIT AN' JET GONNA --
YEAH, YEAH HYUK HYUK, HYUK
YOU GONNA SHUT UP, MAN. CAN'T LET 'M HEAR US, YA KNOW.


THERE HE GOES! MAN O'MAN, CAN'T WAIT!
VROOM


HAHAHAHA LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL, BRO'!
YIEE! WILDBOYS!
SKREE
WILDBOYS

I USETA THINK THEY WERE COOL. DUMB: THEY BEAT UP DAREDEVIL.
I NEED HELP, BUT NOT FROM THOSE CREEPS. GUESS I BETTER KEEP LOOKING FAST'

GEEZ! WHAT IN THE --
TO-NITE IS, LIKE, YOUR LUCKY NIGHT, SUCKER. HYUK, HYUK!

WHUMPCH
DIG IT, BABY, DIG IT!
"LIKE A TRUE NATURE'S CHILD...
VRRRR
RRRRRRR
RR
"...WE WERE BORN, BORN TO BE WILD!"
BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA
SURF ON THIS, PUNKOID!
"BORN TO BE WI-I-I-ILD!"
SURF THIS! HAR HAR!

BWAAMPCH
VROOOM
:kaf kaf: CAN'T SEE.
WHEEEE!
TWO POINTS. WILDBOYS IN THE LEAD!
HYUK, HYUK, HYUK!
SKREEE
UHHH. I-I'M NOT FINISHED Y-YET, BUT YOU'LL BE SWISS CHEESE--
OOOOOOH!
HUK HUK
AAURGH!
THIS AIN'T GONNA HURT US--BUT YOU...
HEH, HEH HEH.
REEOOOREEOOOREEOOO
?
FREEZE!

WELL, ISN'T THIS CONVENIENT? I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO BELIEVE THIS ONE!
I MUST SHAKE YOUR HANDS WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO BLAST THIS GUY FOR WEEKS. SAY DON'T YOU GO BY THE MONIKER, WILDBOYS?" THOUGHT SO. THANKS AGAIN. HONEST. YOU'RE REAL HEROES, YOU KNOW.
ER-
WHU
HEH HEH HEH
KKK
GLURK
THE IRONY OF THIS JUST KILLS ME
IF I COULD HAVE SEEN IT -
- I STILL WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT
HEH BLIND BLIND DOES HAVE SOME ADVANTAGES
DA-A-A REDEVIL! HELP!
FATBOYS? WHAT COULD THOSE SKATEBOARD KIDS HAVE GOTTEN INTO?
TIME TO DO THE HERO BIT
END

YOU WOULDN'T THINK THAT A BLIND MAN LIKE MYSELF COULD OPERATE AS DAREDEVIL. BUT I HAVE FIVE OTHER SUPERHUMAN SENSES THAT LET ME PERFORM AMAZING FEATS.
FOR EXAMPLE, I CAN HEAR SOMEONE WHISPERING EVEN THROUGH A NORMAL SOUNDPROOF WALL. I CAN IDENTIFY A SPECIFIC PERSON BY SCENT ALONE. OR I CAN READ A NEWSPAPER JUST BY FEELING THE PRINT WITH MY HANDS. I CAN EVEN TELL YOU HOW MANY GRAINS OF SALT THERE ARE ON A PRETZEL BY TASTING IT.
MIND YOU, I DON'T GET ASKED TO DO THAT SORT OF THING VERY OFTEN.
I ALSO HAVE A SPECIFIC SIXTH SENSE MY "RADAR SENSE," THAT ALLOWS ME TO TELL THE LOCATION OF ANY OBJECTS IN MY VICINITY.
ACTUALLY, THE MOLE MAN DOESN'T NEED IT TO BE. HIS EYESIGHT IS QUITE POOR, BUT HE CAN SEE EXTREMELY WELL IN THE DARK OF HIS UNDERGROUND WORLD. HIS SPECIAL GLASSES GIVE HIM NORMAL VISION EVEN IN BRIGHT SUNLIGHT.
AMONG WOLVERINE'S MUTANT POWERS ARE HIS SUPERHUMANLY ACUTE SENSES. HE HAS NIGHT VISION TWICE AS GOOD AS A NORMAL HUMAN BEING'S AND CAN HEAR A HEARTBEAT FROM TWO HUNDRED FEET AWAY. HE CAN TRACK ANOTHER PERSON BY HIS SCENT AS WELL AS ANY DOG COULD.
WOLVERINE DOESN'T HAVE A RADAR SENSE, THOUGH, AND MOST OF HIS OTHER SENSES AREN'T QUITE AS SHARP AS MINE.
HIS SENSE OF SMELL MIGHT BE A LITTLE BETTER THAN MINE THOUGH THEN AGAIN I RARELY HAVE TO TRACK PEOPLE BY SMELL, SINCE I CAN IDENTIFY THEM BY THEIR HEARTBEATS. HE CAN'T HEAR WELL ENOUGH TO DO THAT.
38
A NORMAL BLIND PERSON, LIKE ALICIA MASTERS STORM, DOES NOT ACTUALLY HAVE SUPERHUMAN SENSES, BUT SHE PAYS GREATER ATTENTION TO THE INFORMATION SHE RECEIVES THROUGH HER OTHER SENSES. SO ALICIA WILL HEAR OR SMELL THINGS THAT MIGHT ESCAPE A SIGHTED PERSON'S NOTICE.
BUT THERE ARE OTHER PEOPLE I KNOW ABOUT WHO HAVE ACTUAL SUPERHUMAN SENSES.
SABRE-TOOTH HAS SENSES JUST AS SUPERHUMANLY ACUTE AS HIS ARCHENEMEMY WOLVERINE'S.
AND THE PUMA HAS MYSTICALLY ENHANCED SENSES. HIS SENSE OF SMELL MAY BE BETTER THAN EVEN WOLVERINE'S, THOUGH HIS OTHER SENSES APPARENTLY AREN'T.
MY OLD TEACHER STICK USED TO CLAIM THAT ANYONE COULD DEVELOP SUPERHUMAN SENSES THROUGH TRAINING. HE HIMSELF WAS BLIND BUT HE HAD DEVELOPED A MYSTICAL "PROXIMITY SENSE" THAT SERVED THE SAME FUNCTIONS AS MY RADAR SENSE.
IN FACT, AT CLOSE RANGE, STICK'S PROXIMITY SENSE WAS EVEN SHARPER THAN MY RADAR.
I DON'T KNOW HOW THE MOLE MAN DEVELOPED HIS OWN RADAR SENSE, BUT IT IS NOT NEARLY AS PRECISE OR AS POWERFUL AS MINE.
IN GENERAL, THOUGH, I'VE GOT THE SHARPEST SENSES OF ANYONE I KNOW OF. THOUGH THEY SAY THAT THE ASGARDIAN GOD HEIMDALL AND THE ALIEN WATCHER CAN SEE AND HEAR ANYTHING ON EARTH, EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE NOT EVEN ON THE PLANET.
BUT I'M NOT SURE I EVEN BELIEVE IN THOSE TWO!
39

GREGORY WRIGHT
Writer / Colorist

JOHN ROMITA JR.
Penciler

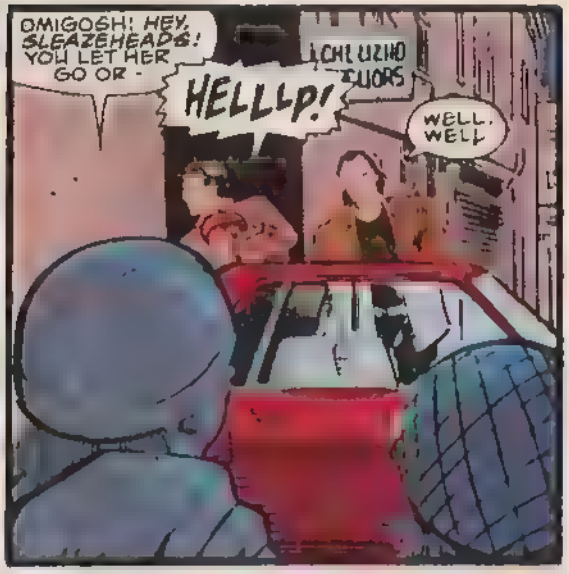
KLAUS JANSON
Inker

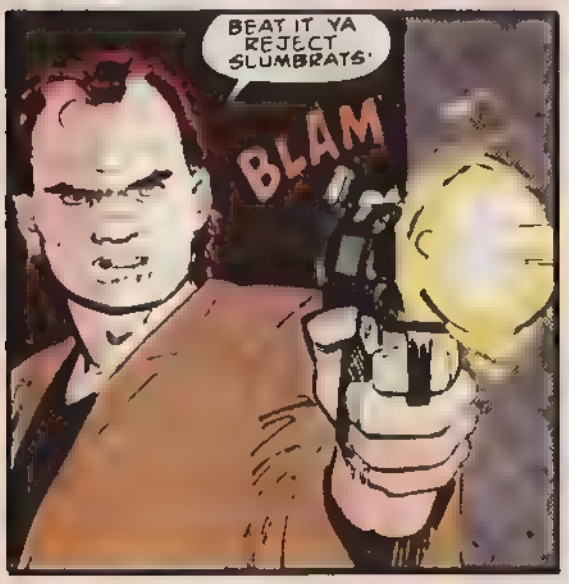
RICHARD STARKINGS
Letterer

RALPH MACCHIO
Can't Skateboard

TOM DeFALCO
Can

IIEEEEE
OOOH, SHE'S A PRETTY ONE. GET A P-E OF CASH FOR THIS ONE.

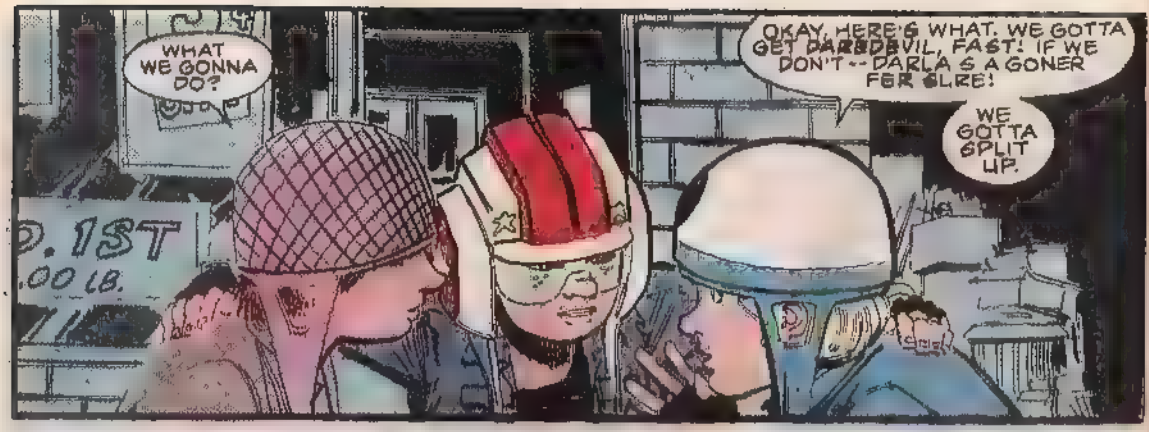

OMIGOSH! HEY, SLEAZEHEADS! YOU LET HER GO OR -
HELLLP!
WELL, WELL


BEAT IT YA REJECT SLUMBRATS.
BLAM

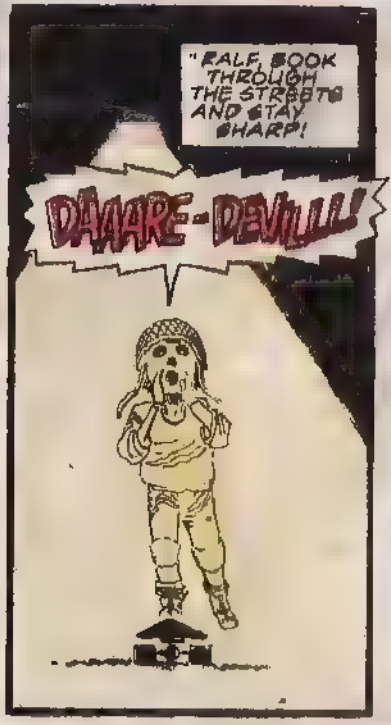
DWEENG
ULP
SMOOTH MOVE, EX LAX.
SHUT UP, BUTCH

STREETS NOT THE PLACE FOR LITTLE TREASURES LIKE YOU.
YOUR LIFE'S ABOUT TO CHANGE, SWEETS.

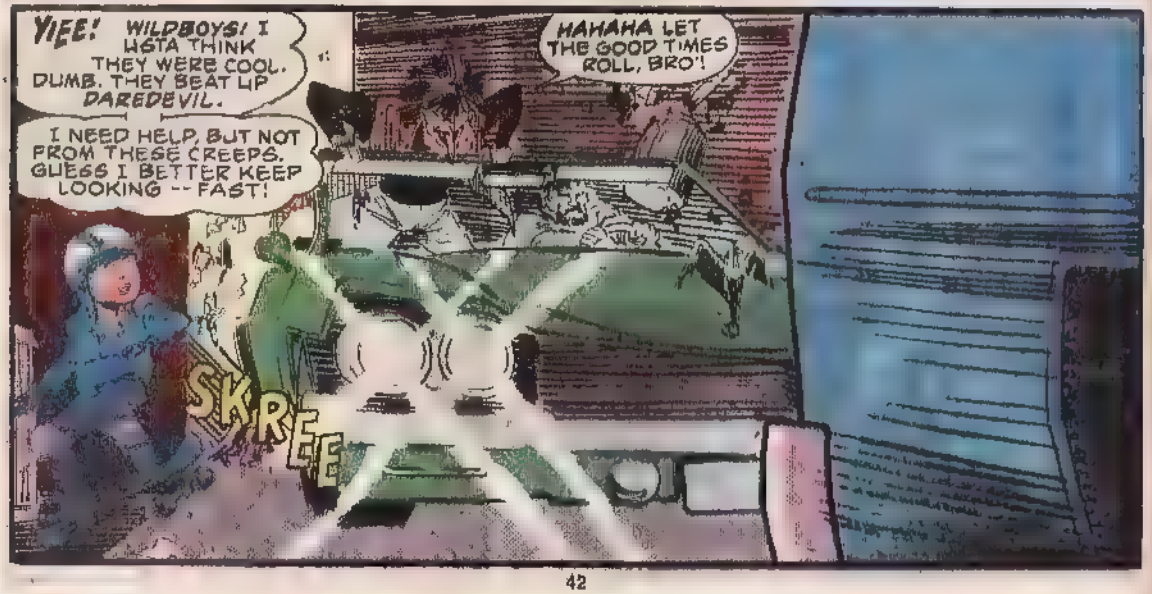
FOREVER


WHAT WE GONNA DO?
OKAY, HERE'S WHAT. WE GOTTA GET DAREDEVIL, FAST! IF WE DON'T -- DARLA'S A GONER FER SURE!
WE GOTTA SPLIT UP.

"BUTCH, YOU CHECK OUT THE LEGAL CLINIC, SEE IF MATT OR KAREN KNOW WHERE HE IS.
DRAT.

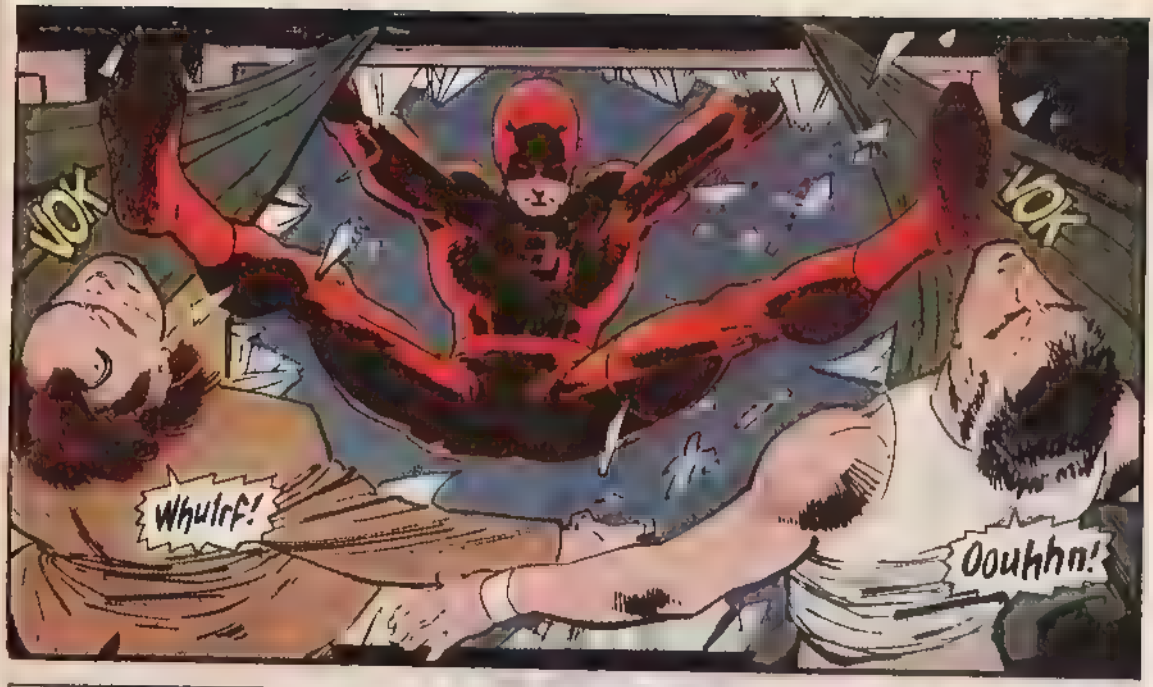

"ELF, BOOK THROUGH THE STREETS AND STAY SHARP!
DAAARE-DEVIL!!!

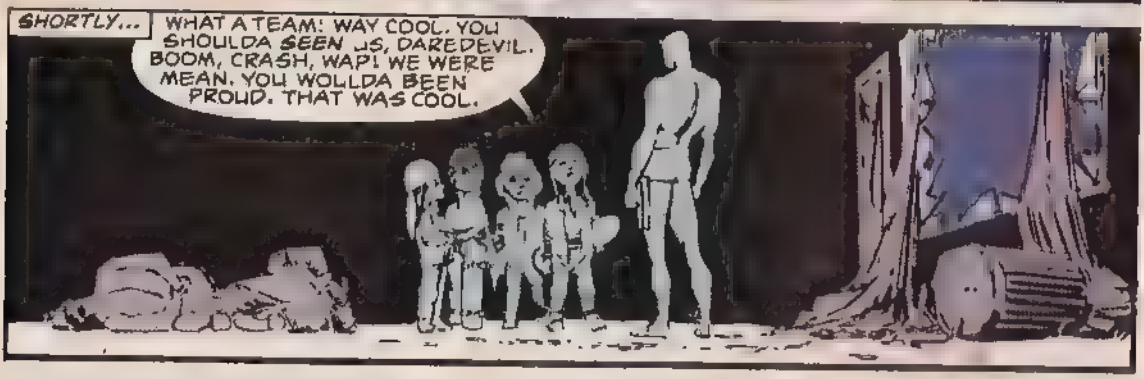
"I'LL CREEP IN AND OUTTA THE SHADOWS OF THE ALLEYS."
WHERE IS HE--
VRRRRR


YIPE! WILDBOYS! I HATA THINK THEY WERE COOL. DUMB. THEY BEAT UP DAREDEVIL.
I NEED HELP, BUT NOT FROM THESE CREEPS. GUESS I BETTER KEEP LOOKING -- FAST!
HAHAHA LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL, BRO'!
SKREE

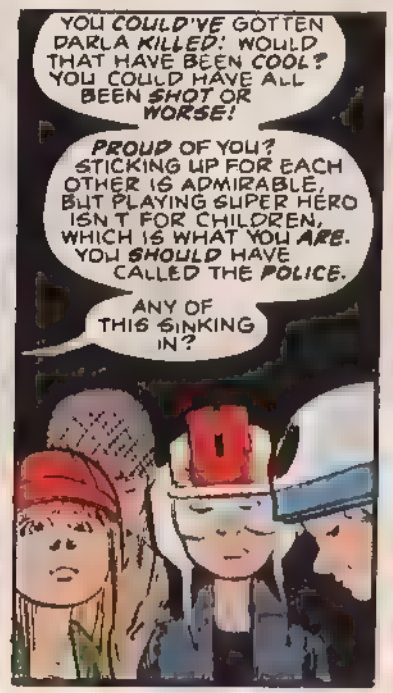
SOON, AFTER A FRUSTRATINGLY FUTILE SEARCH...
NERS
DRY
OKAY, GUYS. WE DO IT OURSELVES. HOW HARD CAN IT BE?
ANYWAYS WE GOT THREE TO THEIR TWO!
YEAH.
ULP
HEY, CHICKAROONIE. YOU WANT A CANDY?
YO GLICE, DUDE--WHEN'S ZAT SANDERS GUY GONNA--
KER-
REESH
--SHOW UP?
WHAT IN THE--
OW
FATBOYS CUT LOOSE!

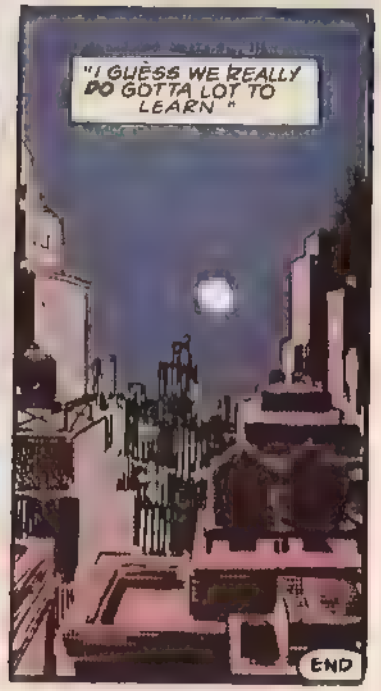
HUM. NOT SO HARD I'LL JUST BLOW BOTH THESE CREEPOS AWAY.
TSK TSK. DINT YOUR MOMMA TEACH YOU NOT TA PLAY WITH GUNS.
UH OH
HAW, HAW. COURSE I NEVER LISTEN TA MINE.
CAN IT, WILLIAMS. ICE THE LITTLE PUKES.
OKAY YA SEWER-BRATS, KISS IT GOODBY
IEEE!
KRAK

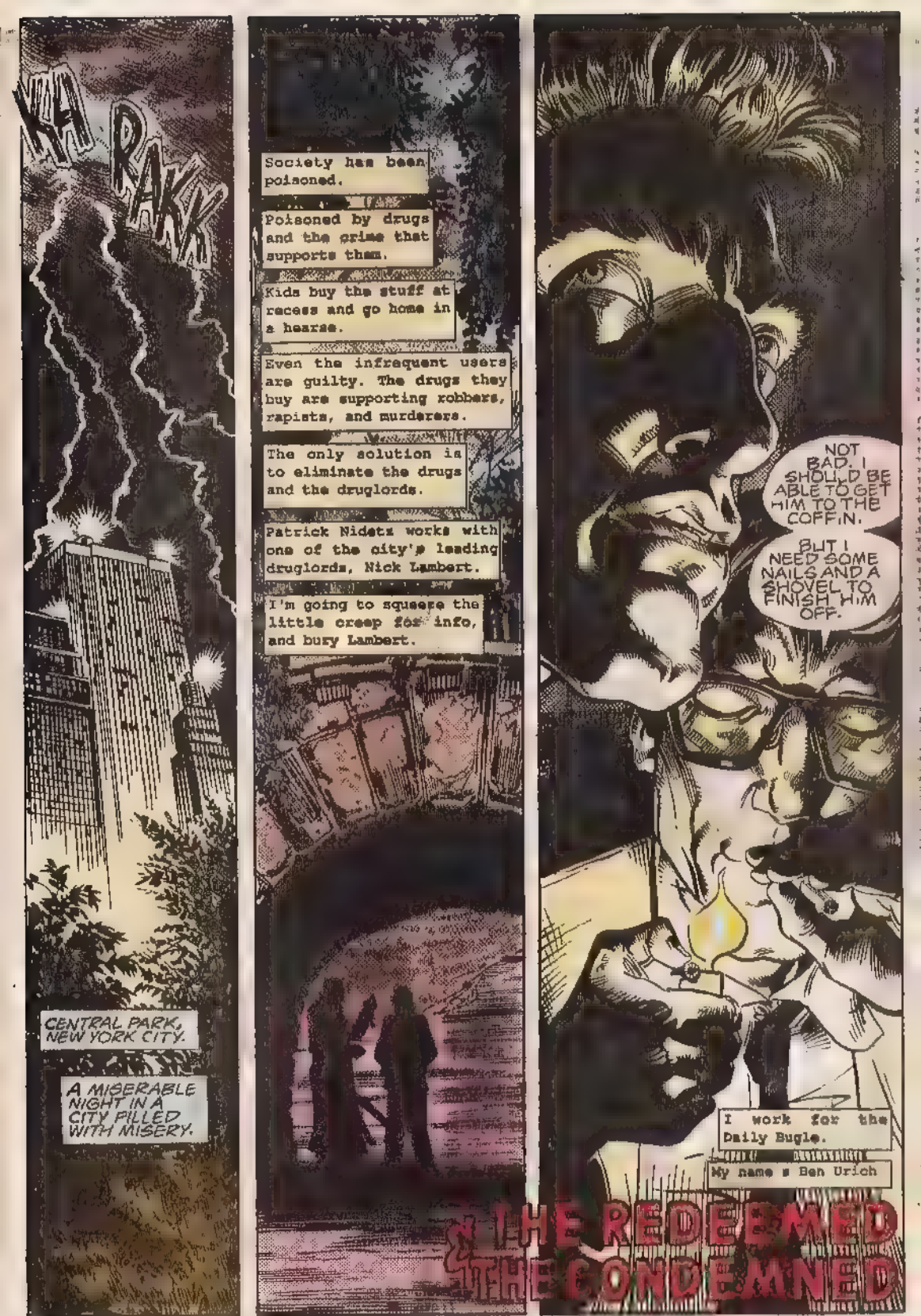

VOK
VOK
Whulrf!
Oouhhn!


SHORTLY...
WHAT A TEAM! WAY COOL. YOU SHOULDA SEEN US, DAREDEVIL. BOOM, CRASH, WAP! WE WERE MEAN. YOU WOULDA BEEN PROUD. THAT WAS COOL.

THAT WAS STUPID. PERIOD. NON-NEGOTIABLE. WHERE DO YOU KEEP YOUR BRAINS?

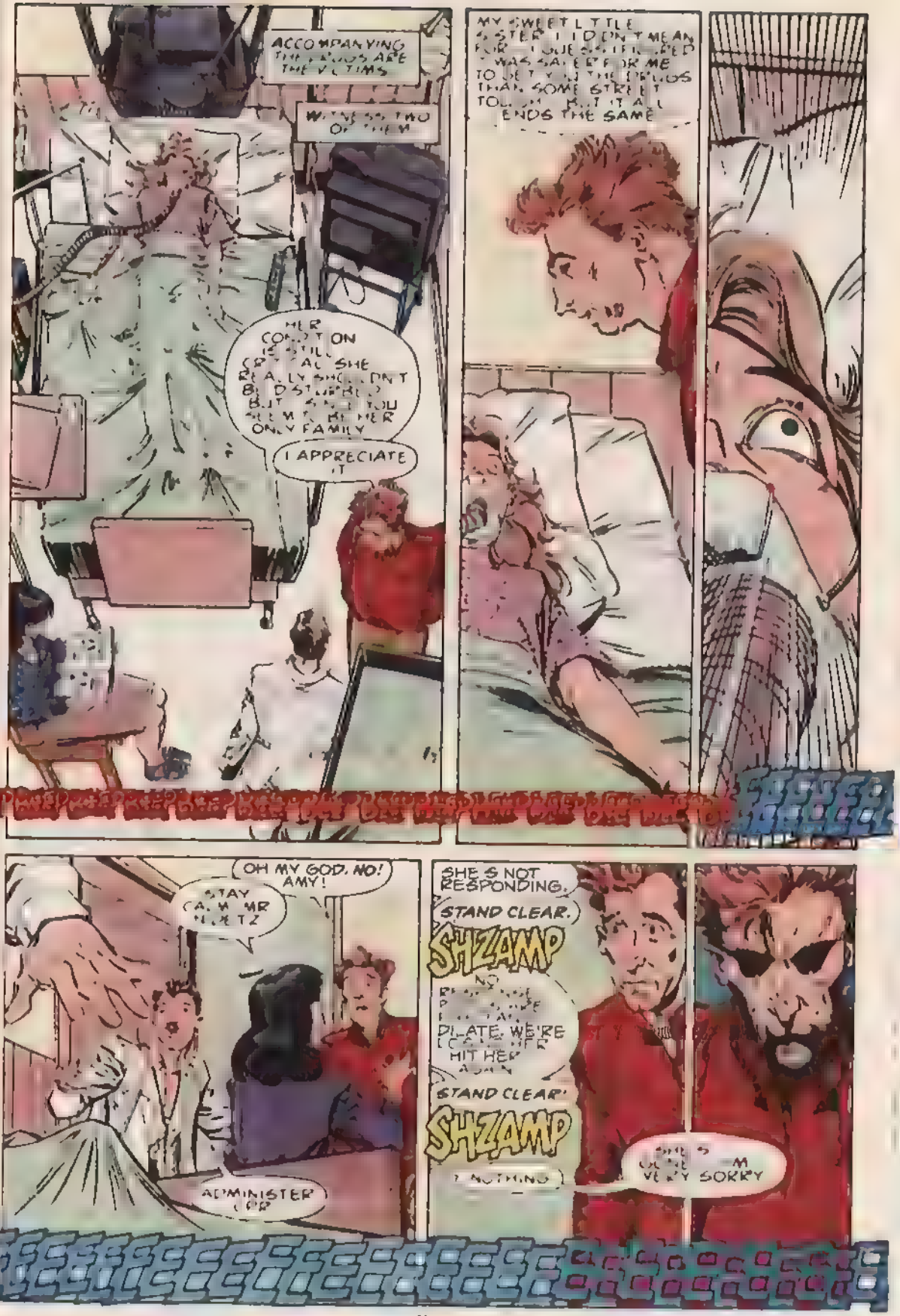

YOU COULD'VE GOTTEN DARLA KILLED! WOULD THAT HAVE BEEN COOL? YOU COULD HAVE ALL BEEN SHOT OR WORSE!
PROUD OF YOU? STICKING UP FOR EACH OTHER IS ADMIRABLE, BUT PLAYING SUPER HERO ISN'T FOR CHILDREN, WHICH IS WHAT YOU ARE. YOU SHOULD HAVE CALLED THE POLICE.
ANY OF THIS SINKING IN?


"I GUESS WE REALLY DO GOTTA LOT TO LEARN."
END



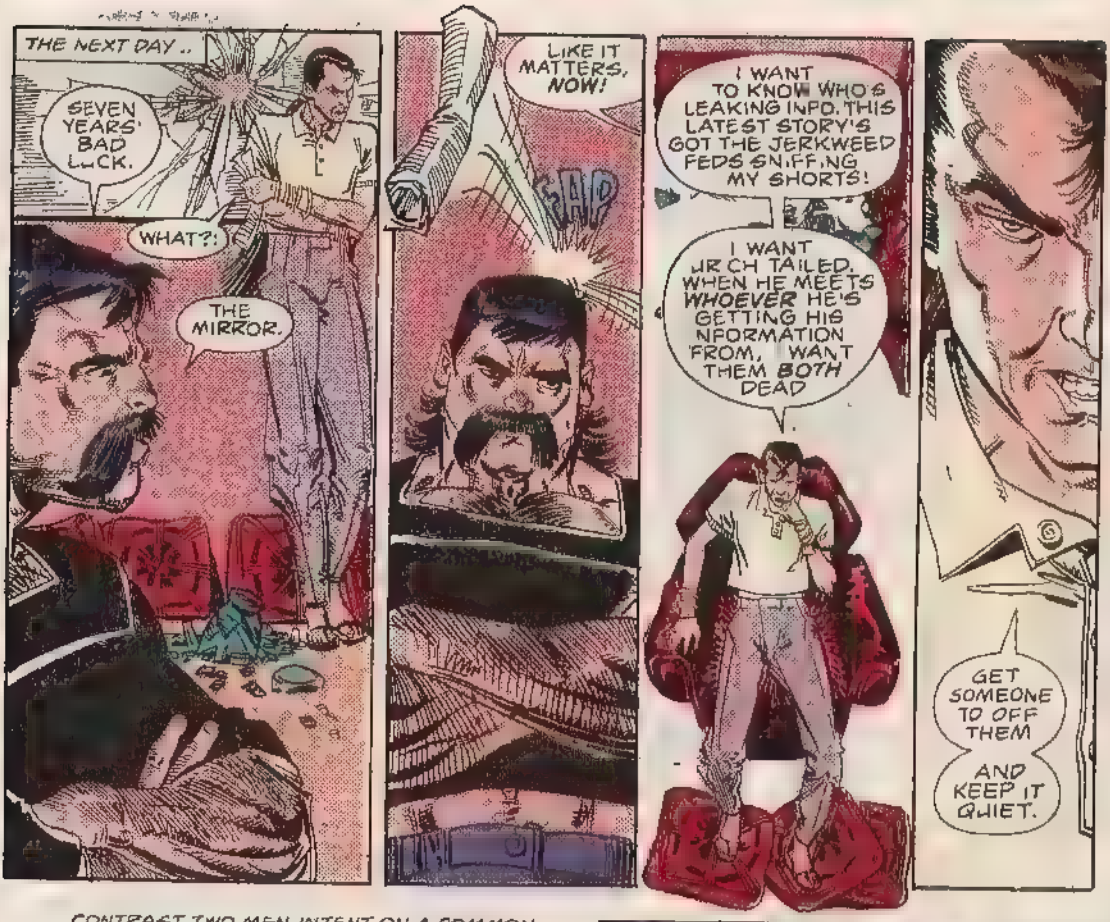
by GREGORY WRIGHT Writer/Colorist | WHILCE PORTACIO Penciller | AL MILGROM Inker | RICHARD STARKINGS Letterer | RALPH MACCHIO Editor | TOM DeFALCO Editor-in-Chief

MORNING.
THE EARLY
IS A DANGEROUS
REYNOLDS?
HAH! THIS DRUGLORD
FINE WORK, URICH
EXTINGUISH
the press. The
adrenalin
feels great.


ACCOMPANYING THE DRUGS ARE THE VICTIMS
WITNESS TWO OF THEM
HER CONDITION IS STILL CRITICAL. SHE REALLY SHOULDN'T BE DISTURBED BUT SINCE YOU SEEM TO BE HER ONLY FAMILY
I APPRECIATE IT
MY SWEET LITTLE SISTER I DIDN'T MEAN FOR I GUESS I FIGURED IT WAS SAFER FOR ME TO GET YOU THE DRUGS THAN SOME STREET TOUGH. BUT IT ALL ENDS THE SAME
OH MY GOD, NO! AMY!
STAY CALM MR NIDETZ
ADMINISTER CPR
SHE'S NOT RESPONDING.
STAND CLEAR.
SHZAMP
DILATE. WE'RE LOSING HER HIT HER AGAIN
STAND CLEAR!
SHZAMP
NOTHING
VERY SORRY

HELL'S KITCHEN.
HIYA, MATT. TAKING A BREAK FROM THE LEGAL CLINIC?
BEN. NICE STORY IN THE BUGLE
WE ALL DO OUR PART TO CLEAN UP THE NEIGHBORHOOD.
WE BOTH CROSS OUR OWN BOUNDARIES. MAYBE WE AREN'T SO DIFFERENT. I BECAME DAREDEVIL TO ADMINISTER JUSTICE WHERE THE SYSTEM FAILED.
BUT I HAD AN EDGE. SERIOUSLY, BEN, BE CAREFUL. THIS GUY IS RECKLESS. HE WON'T FALL ALONE.
NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE THE DAY YOU'D ENCOURAGE COWARDICE.
TIMES SQUARE.
C'MON, URICH! WHERE ARE YOU? IF I'M CAUGHT, I'M A DEAD MAN.
NOT THAT IT MATTERS. MY CONSCIENCE OUTWEIGHS THE CASH I'VE COLLECTED FOR LAMBERT. HE'S GOT TO PAY... FOR AMY.
PATRICK. WELL? GET IN.

I COPIED IT. YOU'LL BE ABLE TO LINK THIS UP TO IRS RECORDS, AS WELL AS SOME OBITUARIES.
HEH, SOLID NAILS.
Hmm. NICE. COULD BE NICER THOUGH.
HEY, MAN, CAN'T YOU READ? NO SMOKING!
SORRY, PATRICK. I HOPE YOU'RE NOT HOLDING OUT ON ME.
I NEED MORE. NOW.
YOU'LL HAVE IT I WANT LAMBERT DOWN, SAME AS YOU.
BULL! YOU DON'T FOOL ME, PUNK. YOU JUST WANT TO SAVE YOUR OWN SKIN. YOU MAY LOOK CLEAN, BUT YOUR SOLES REEK.
THE REST OF IT. TONIGHT. YOU KNOW THE PLACE.
LET ME OUT HERE.



CONTRAST TWO MEN INTENT ON A COMMON GOAL. ONE SCARED TO THE POINT OF NO RETURN. TO THE POINT OF BETRAYAL. ONE BETRAYAL COULD END HIS LIFE, THE OTHER COULD END MANY OTHERS.

THE SECOND, A CASE STUDY IN OBLIVIOUS INSENSITIVITY. FEAR HAS BEEN REPLACED BY RELENTLESSNESS. AND THE COST WILL BE BRUTAL... EXCEPT FOR HIMSELF.

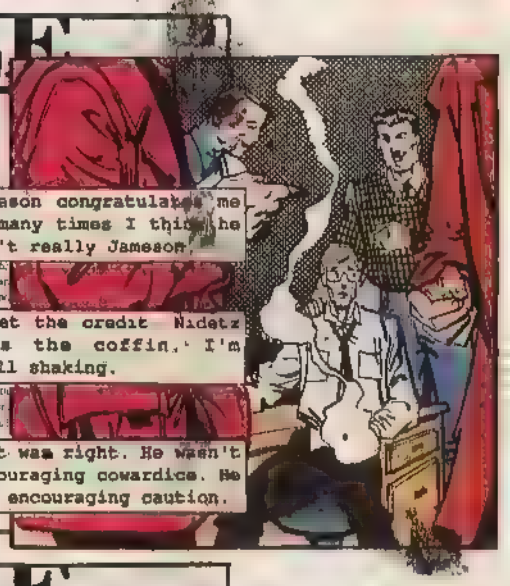
THIS'LL GET LAMBERT CONVICTED, GUARANTEED. I TAPED IT MYSELF. PHOTOS'RE IN THE FILE.
THINK THIS SHOVEL'LL DO?
VRRRRRMMM
IT'LL DO. S GOING TO IMPLICATE YOU THOUGH. I WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP YOU CLEAN.
GUILT BY ASSOCIATION. HEH. DOESN'T MATTER. YOU KNOW THAT. EVEN IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE --
CLK WRR CLK K-CHUNK
THAT SOUND-- NO! IT CAN'T BE! NOT NOW!
BUSHWACKER!
GET DOWN! FAST!
BRAKKA
BRAKKA

'M NOT DEAD CAN'T SAY THE SAME FOR NIDETZ. WHY D HE SACRIFICE HIMSELFT GEEZ. STAY COOL. DON'T BREATHE.
HEH, HEH, HAHAHA. EASY WAY TO MAKE A BUCK.
LET'S SEE JUST WHAT WAS SO DANGEROUS
CRIPES! LAMBERT!
NO WONDER HE WANTED JRICH AND THE OTHER SAP OFFED
REYNOLDS SHOULDA TOLD ME THAT SLIMY CREEP WAS PAYING MY FEE
THAT DRUGLORD WAS SELLING DOPE TO THE KIDS IN MY OLD PARISH.
KIDS. THEY WERE ONLY CHILDREN. SO BEAUTIFUL. SO FRESH. THE DRUGS DRAINED THE LIFE RIGHT OUT OF 'EM.
I WANTED TO DRAIN LAMBERT BUT I WAS A PRIEST.

BUT I'M NOT A PRIEST TODAY
HEY YOU'RE STILL BREATHING
OH NO OH GOD NO
YOU! I KNOW YOU! NEWS PAPER REPORTER RIGHT?
YOU DOING A STORY ON THIS... SINNER?
CLICK
YOU MIGHT EVEN GET HIM PUT AWAY
YOU'RE SWEATING AND YOUR TEETH ARE CHATTERING ARE YOU HOT OR COLD?
I WAS HIRED TO STOP YOU
CHK CHAK
BUT NOBODY TOLD ME WHO I WAS REALLY WORKING FOR
YOU WRITE THAT STORY THE SYSTEM'LL PUT HIM AWAY ALL RIGHT
THIS LITTLE TOY WAS A PRESENT FROM THE SYSTEM
CHK CHAK
DOESN'T FAIL ME, UNLIKE THE SYSTEM WE AREN'T SO DIFFERENT UR... OUR METHODS
ONLY MINE DON'T FAIL

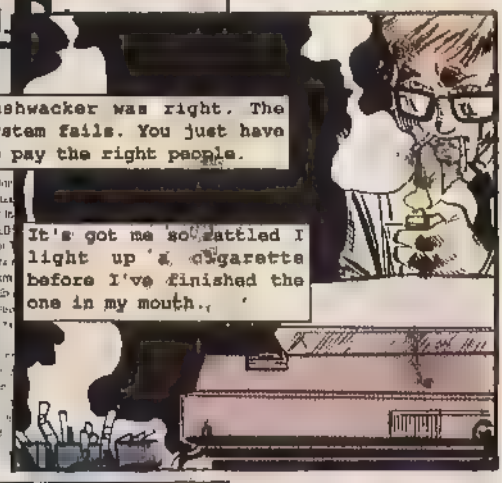
DAILY BUGLE

UPTOWN DRUGLORD NICK LAMBERT CONVICTED!



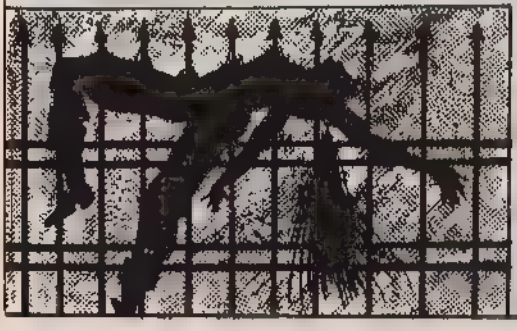
DAILY BUGLE

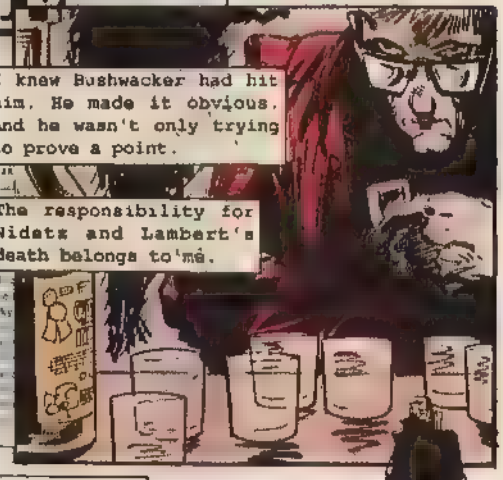
LAMBERT CLEARED ON LACK OF EVIDENCE!

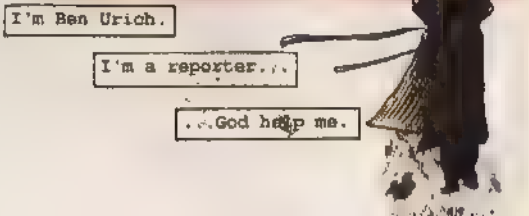


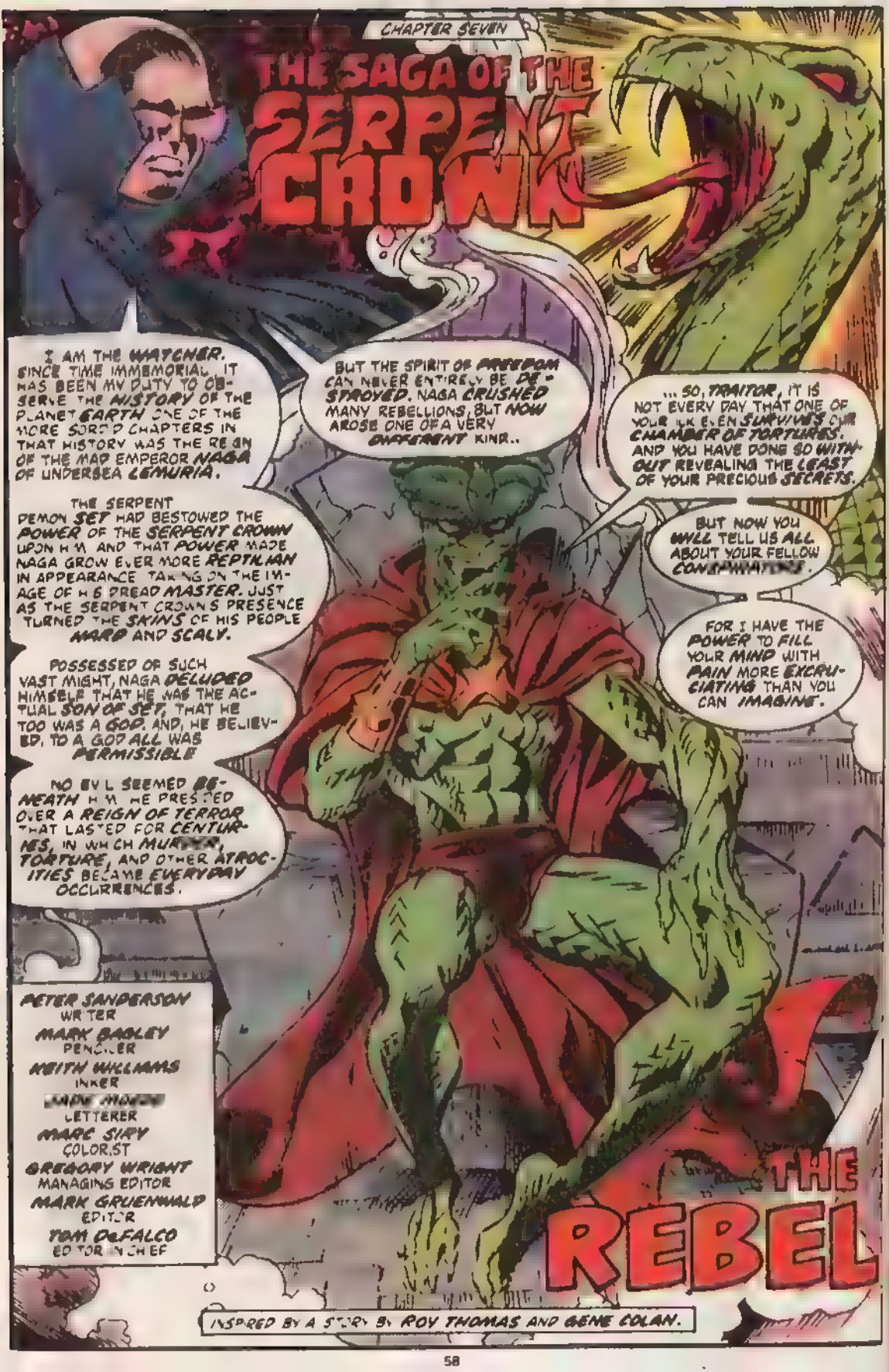
DAILY BUGLE

LAMBERT FOUND BRUTALLY SLAIN!



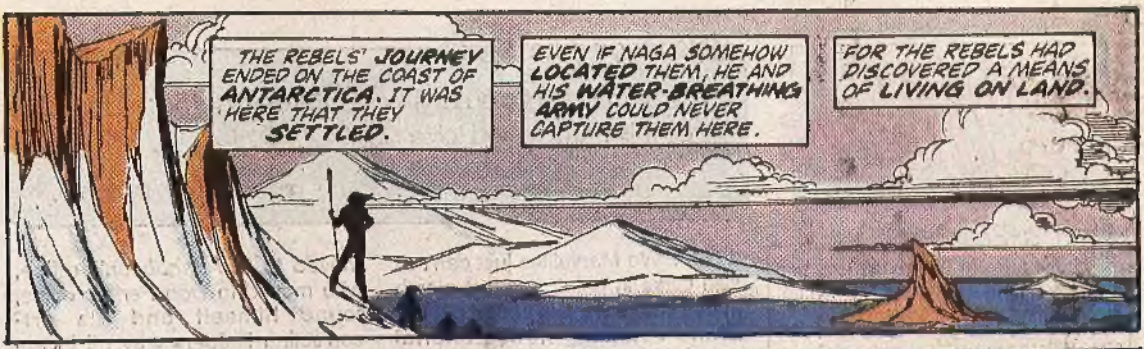




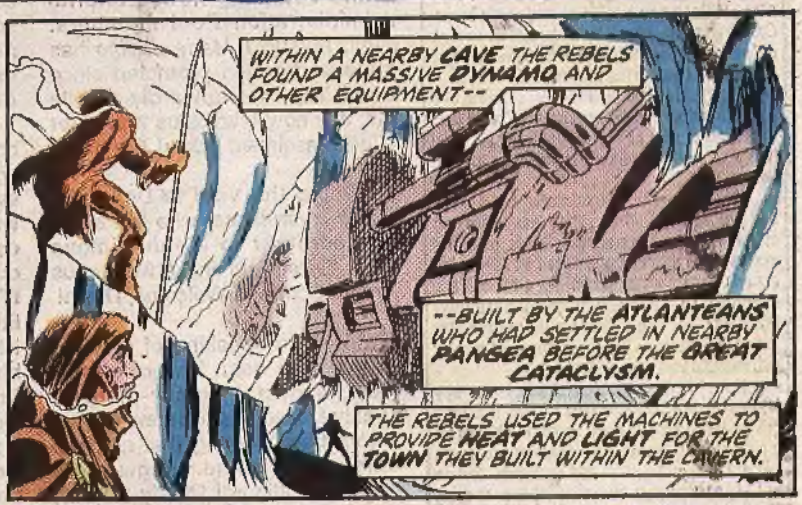

CHAPTER SEVEN
THE SAGA OF THE SERPENT CROWN
I AM THE WATCHER. SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL IT HAS BEEN MY DUTY TO OBSERVE THE HISTORY OF THE PLANET EARTH. ONE OF THE MORE SORDID CHAPTERS IN THAT HISTORY WAS THE REIGN OF THE MAD EMPEROR NAGA OF UNDERSEA LEMURIA.
THE SERPENT DEMON SET HAD BESTOWED THE POWER OF THE SERPENT CROWN UPON HIM. AND THAT POWER MADE NAGA GROW EVER MORE REPTILIAN IN APPEARANCE, TAKING ON THE IMAGE OF HIS DREAD MASTER. JUST AS THE SERPENT CROWN'S PRESENCE TURNED THE SKINS OF HIS PEOPLE HARD AND SCALY.
POSSESSED OF SUCH VAST MIGHT, NAGA DELUDED HIMSELF THAT HE WAS THE ACTUAL SON OF SET, THAT HE TOO WAS A GOD. AND, HE BELIEVED, TO A GOD ALL WAS PERMISSIBLE
NO EVIL SEEMED BENEATH HIM. HE PRESIDED OVER A REIGN OF TERROR THAT LASTED FOR CENTURIES, IN WHICH MURDER, TORTURE, AND OTHER ATROCITIES BECAME EVERYDAY OCCURRENCES.
BUT THE SPIRIT OF FREEDOM CAN NEVER ENTIRELY BE DESTROYED. NAGA CRUSHED MANY REBELLIONS, BUT NOW AROSE ONE OF A VERY DIFFERENT KIND..
... SO, TRAITOR, IT IS NOT EVERY DAY THAT ONE OF YOUR KIND EVEN SURVIVES OUR CHAMBER OF TORTURES. AND YOU HAVE DONE SO WITHOUT REVEALING THE LEAST OF YOUR PRECIOUS SECRETS.
BUT NOW YOU WILL TELL US ALL ABOUT YOUR FELLOW CONSPIRATORS.
FOR I HAVE THE POWER TO FILL YOUR MIND WITH PAIN MORE EXCRUCIATING THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE.
PETER SANDERSON
WRITER
MARK BAGLEY
PENCILER
KEITH WILLIAMS
INKER
[illegible]
LETTERER
MARC SIRY
COLORIST
GREGORY WRIGHT
MANAGING EDITOR
MARK GRUENWALD
EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
THE REBEL
INSPIRED BY A STORY BY ROY THOMAS AND GENE COLAN.

NOT EVEN I CAN UNDERSTAND YOU REBELS. WHY DO YOU EVEN BOTHER?
FOR CENTURIES I HAVE SEEN REBELS LIVE AND REBELS DIE. BUT NAGA GOES ON, ETERNALLY; AS GODS EVER SHALL.
LONG AGO MY FATHER, SET, SHOWED MY ALCHEMISTS HOW TO TREAT MY CROWN WITH SPECIAL OILS THAT MAKE ITS WEARER IMMORTAL AND FOREVER YOUNG.
I WILL RULE FOREVER. YOU, TRAITOR, WILL NOT LIVE ANOTHER NIGHT.
YOU ARE NO GOD, DESPOT! AND YOU ARE NOT BEYOND KILLING!
AND SOMEDAY YOU WILL DIE THE IGNOMINIOUS DEATH YOU SO RICHLY DESERVE!
DO YOUR WORST TO ME MADMAN: I FEAR YOU NOT! PRAISE THE REBELLION!
WE SHALL SEE HOW BRAVE YOU REMAIN ONCE I TEAR YOUR MIND TO BLOODY RIBBONS--
--WHAT? THE TRAITOR'S MIND RESISTS MY MENTAL PROBE! THAT CAN ONLY MEAN--
--A TELEPATH! THE REBELS ARE TELEPATHS!
SO, TRAITOR! SEE IF YOUR PATHETIC POWERS CAN PROTECT YOU FROM THIS!
DISPLAY HIS CARCASS IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE! LET IT BE A WARNING TO HIS FELLOW TRAITORS!
THESE TELEPATHS THINK THEIR POWERS CAN CONCEAL THEM FROM THEIR GOD! BUT THE POWER OF SET SHALL RIP THROUGH THEIR PUNY DEFENSES!
AND THEY SHALL LEARN THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM MY DEVINE WRATH!

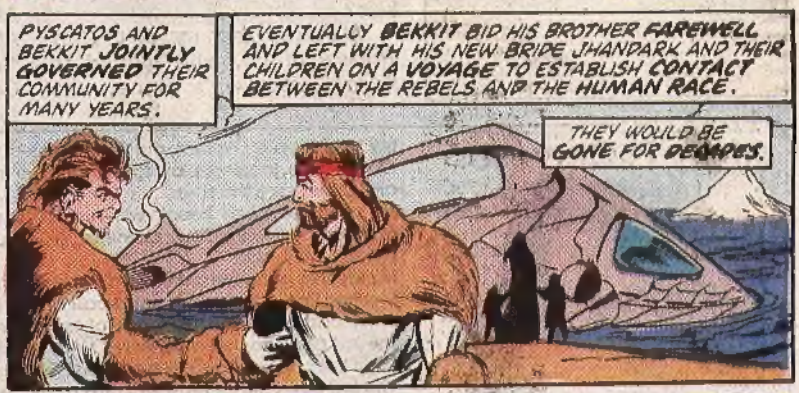
HOURS LATER, IN A SECRET CHAMBER, THE REBELS GATHER, COMMUNICATING TELEPATHICALLY TO AVOID BEING OVERHEARD.
IN THEIR MIDST STAND THEIR LEADERS, PYSCATOS AND BEKKIT, BROTHERS TO THE CAPTIVE NAGA JUST SLEW.
WE CAN WAIT NO LONGER, GOOD FRIENDS! NAGA HAS MURDERED MY BROTHER AURWEL! HE KNOWS OUR CIRCLE EXISTS!
WE MUST ACT NOW, FOR TOMORROW IT WILL BE TOO LATE
I ASK AGAIN, WHY MUST WE RUN? IF WE STRIKE NOW, WITH OUR COMBINED POWERS, WE MIGHT SUCCEED IN OVERTHROWING THE TYRANT FOREVER!
OUR DECISION STANDS, JHANDARK. OUR NUMBERS ARE TOO FEW TO STAND AGAINST NAGA'S ARMY, EVEN WITH OUR POWERS! AND WE ARE NO MATCH FOR THE SERPENT CROWN!
OUR ONLY HOPE LIES IN FLIGHT TO THE LAND WHERE NAGA CANNOT FOLLOW US!
BUT, BEKKIT, BEFORE WE LEAVE, WE MUST RID OUR HOMELAND OF ITS GREATEST EVIL!
WE MUST PUT AN END TO FOUL NAGA'S USE OF THE SERPENT CROWN!
HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR MIND, PYSCATOS? DO WE KILL THE TYRANT?
NO! WHOEVER REPLACED HIM WOULD BE JUST AS BAD--OR EVEN WORSE!
BUT WE MUST TAKE THE CROWN!
THAT NIGHT PYSCATOS AND BEKKIT USED THEIR MENTAL POWERS TO CAST NAGA'S GUARDS INTO A DEEP SLEEP.
THEN THE TWO BROTHERS INVADED NAGA'S CHAMBER WHILE THE DESPOT SLEPT--
--AND STOLE THE CROWN!
BY DAYBREAK THE REBELS HAD ALREADY SWUM MILES FROM NAGA'S CITY!
PYSCATOS HIMSELF BORE THE DREADED SERPENT CROWN IN A HUMBLE POUCH.
THROUGH SELF-HYPNOSIS, HE AND THE OTHERS HAD PROTECTED THEMSELVES FROM ITS DEMONIC INFLUENCE.


THE REBELS' JOURNEY ENDED ON THE COAST OF ANTARCTICA. IT WAS HERE THAT THEY SETTLED.
EVEN IF NAGA SOMEHOW LOCATED THEM, HE AND HIS WATER-BREATHING ARMY COULD NEVER CAPTURE THEM HERE.
FOR THE REBELS HAD DISCOVERED A MEANS OF LIVING ON LAND.

JHANDARK HAD CONCOCTED A POTION THAT ENABLED THEM TO BREATHE AIR, WHILE TURNING THEIR SCALY SKINS PINK AND SMOOTH.


WITHIN A NEARBY CAVE THE REBELS FOUND A MASSIVE DYNAMO AND OTHER EQUIPMENT--
--BUILT BY THE ATLANTEANS WHO HAD SETTLED IN NEARBY PANGEA BEFORE THE GREAT CATACLYSM.
THE REBELS USED THE MACHINES TO PROVIDE HEAT AND LIGHT FOR THE TOWN THEY BUILT WITHIN THE CAVERN.

AS FOR THE SERPENT CROWN, BEKKIT ENCASED IT WITHIN A SUBSTANCE INTENDED TO REDUCE ITS POWER TO ENSNARE PEOPLE'S MINDS.


PYSCATOS AND BEKKIT JOINTLY GOVERNED THEIR COMMUNITY FOR MANY YEARS.
EVENTUALLY BEKKIT BID HIS BROTHER FAREWELL AND LEFT WITH HIS NEW BRIDE JHANDARK AND THEIR CHILDREN ON A VOYAGE TO ESTABLISH CONTACT BETWEEN THE REBELS AND THE HUMAN RACE.
THEY WOULD BE GONE FOR DECADES.

DURING THEIR ABSENCE THE AGING PYSCATOS NEARLY PERISHED FROM A STRANGE ILLNESS. HE LOOKED INTO THE FACE OF DEATH AND RECOILED IN FEAR.

BUT DEATH, HE TOLD HIMSELF, WAS AN INEVITABILITY. THERE IS NO ESCAPE!
UNLESS...

MEANWHILE BEKKIT TRAVELED WIDELY AND CAME TO KNOW MANY OF THE GREATEST HUMAN SCIENTISTS AND STATESMEN OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.
BEKKITT'S COMMUNITY OF LONG-LIVED TELEPATHS BECAME KNOWN IN SCHOLARLY WRITINGS OF THE TIME AS THE ANCIENTS.
AT LONG LAST THE NOW ELDERLY BEKKIT SET SAIL FOR HOME--
--ONLY TO DISCOVER ON HIS ARRIVAL THAT THE HOME HE SO FONDLY REMEMBERED WAS NO MORE!
GUARDSMEN TURNED HALF REPTILIAN IN APPEARANCE TOOK HIM PRISONER AND BROUGHT HIM BEFORE THEIR MASTER.
AT FIRST BEKKIT THOUGHT IT WAS NAGA HIMSELF WHO STOOD BEFORE HIM. BUT WHEN HE LOOKED MORE CLOSELY HE RECEIVED AN EVEN GREATER SHOCK.
PYSCATOS ?! BROTHER?!
WELCOME BACK, BEKKIT. MUCH HAS CHANGED SINCE YOU LEFT.
WE TRIED TO FLEE FROM THE GREAT GOD SET, BUT HE HAS FOUND US. HE HAS SHOWN US THE WAY TO SALVATION. WE HAVE BECOME HIS SERVANTS.
AND ALL THAT REMAINS IS FOR YOU TO JOIN US.
JOIN YOU ?! WHEN YOU HAVE DESTROYED EVERYTHING WE SPENT OUR LIVES STRUGGLING FOR?
YOU HAVE BETRAYED THE REBELLION-- BUT I NEVER WILL! DO YOUR WORST, BROTHER! I DID NOT BOW DOWN TO NAGA AND I WILL NOT BOW DOWN TO YOU!
SO BE IT, TRAITOR!
ALL THOSE WHO DEFY FATHER SET--
--MUST PERISH BY HIS HAND!
PYSCATOS LOOKED DOWN AT THE CORPSE OF THE SECOND OF HIS BROTHERS TO FALL BEFORE THE POWER OF THE SERPENT CROWN...
... AND HE REFLECTED ON HOW FAR HE HIMSELF HAD COME SINCE HE WAS A FIERY YOUNG REBEL IN DISTANT LEMURIA.

PYSCATOS SENT JHANDARK AND HER FAMILY BACK OUT TO SEA IN THEIR SUBMARINE...
... AND THAT NIGHT HE WENT ALONE TO THE GREAT DYNAMO.
HE STOOD SILENTLY, TENSELY, AS IF ENGAGED IN A GREAT BATTLE WITHIN HIMSELF, AND THEN--
CURSE YOU, SET!
YOU HAVE MADE ME INTO EVERYTHING I MOST DESPISE! AND I LET YOU!
BUT NOW IT IS FINISHED!
AND PYSCATOS BEGAN PROGRAMMING THE DYNAMO FOR ONE LAST TASK.
YES, DEMON. I CAN FEEL YOU TRYING TO TAKE HOLD OF MY MIND ONCE MORE.
I KNOW I CANNOT RESIST YOU FOR LONG. YOUR CONTROL OVER US HAS GROWN TOO STRONG. NONE OF US CAN ESCAPE YOU NOW SAVE BY DEATH ITSELF!
I FAILED TO SLAY THE TYRANT ONCE BEFORE--
--I WILL NOT MAKE THAT MISTAKE A SECOND TIME!
AND WITH MY DEATH I PUT AN END TO THE EVIL OF THE SERPENT CROWN AT LAST!
PRAISE THE REBELLION!
AND AS PYSCATOS BLACKED-OUT, HE PUNCHED ONE LAST CONTROL--
--OVERLOADING THE DYNAMO--
-- CAUSING IT TO EXPLODE, SETTING OFF A TITANIC AVALANCHE THAT BURIED THE SETTLEMENT OF THE ANCIENTS!
NOW THE SERPENT CROWN ISSUED FORTH ITS SIREN CALL IN VAIN--
-- FOR THERE WAS NO LONGER ANYONE ALIVE TO RESPOND.
NOR WOULD THERE BE UNTIL EARLY IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.
CONTINUED IN AVENGERS ANNUAL #18